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INVESTIGATION OF COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES IN THE NEW HAVEN, CONN., AREA—Part 1

HEARINGS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EIGHTY-FOURTH CONGRESS SECOND SESSION

SEPTEMBER 24 AND 25, 1956

Printed for the use of the Committee on Un-American Activities

(Index in Part 2 of this series)



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PUBLIC LAW 601, 79TH CONGRESS

The legislation under which the House Committee on Un-American Activities operates is Public Law 601, 79th Congress (1946), chapter 753, 2d session, which provides:

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, * * **

PART 2—RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RULE X

SEC. 121. STANDING COMMITTEES

* * * * *

17. Committee on Un-American Activities, to consist of nine members.

RULE XI

POWERS AND DUTIES OF COMMITTEES

* * * * *

(q) (1) Committee on Un-American Activities.

(A) Un-American Activities.

(2) The Committee on Un-American Activities, as a whole or by subcommittee, is authorized to make from time to time, investigations of (i) the extent, character, and objects of un-American propaganda activities in the United States, (ii) the diffusion within the United States of subversive and un-American propaganda that is instigated from foreign countries or of a domestic origin and attacks the principle of the form of government as guaranteed by our Constitution, and (iii) all other questions in relation thereto that would aid Congress in any necessary remedial legislation.

The Committee on Un-American Activities shall report to the House (or to the Clerk of the House if the House is not in session) the results of any such investigation, together with such recommendations as it deems advisable.

For the purpose of any such investigation, the Committee on Un-American Activities, or any subcommittee thereof, is authorized to sit and act at such times and places within the United States, whether or not the House is sitting, has recessed, or has adjourned, to hold such hearings, to require the attendance of such witnesses and the production of such books, papers, and documents, and to take such testimony, as it deems necessary. Subpenas may be issued under the signature of the chairman of the committee or any subcommittee, or by any member designated by any such chairman, and may be served by any person designated by any such chairman or member.

RULES ADOPTED BY THE 84TH CONGRESS

House Resolution 5, January 5, 1955

* * * * *

RULE X

STANDING COMMITTEES

1. There shall be elected by the House, at the commencement of each Congress :

* * * * *

(q) Committee on Un-American Activities, to consist of nine members.

* * * * *

RULE XI

POWERS AND DUTIES OF COMMITTEES

* * * * *

17. Committee on Un-American Activities.

(a) Un-American Activities.

(b) The Committee on Un-American Activities, as a whole or by subcommittee, is authorized to make, from time to time, investigations of (1) the extent, character, and objects of un-American propaganda activities in the United States, (2) the diffusion within the United States of subversive and un-American propaganda that is instigated from foreign countries or of a domestic origin and attacks the principle of the form of government as guaranteed by our Constitution, and (3) all other questions in relation thereto that would aid Congress in any necessary remedial legislation.

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INVESTIGATION OF COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES IN THE NEW HAVEN, CONN., AREA—PART 1

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1956

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES,
New Haven, Conn.

PUBLIC HEARING

A subcommittee of the Committee on Un-American Activities met at 10 a. m., pursuant to call, in the United States Courthouse, New Haven, Conn., Hon. Edwin E. Willis (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Committee members present: Representatives Edwin E. Willis, of Louisiana, and Bernard W. Kearney, of New York.

Staff members present: Richard Arens, director; Raymond T. Collins, investigator.

Mr. WILLIS. The subcommittee will please come to order.

Pursuant to congressional authority and the rules of this committee, Francis E. Walter, of Pennsylvania, Chairman of the Committee on Un-American Activities of the House of Representatives, has appointed Bernard W. Kearney, of New York, James B. Frazier, Jr., of Tennessee, and myself, Edwin E. Willis, of Louisiana, as chairman, of a subcommittee for the purpose of conducting hearings here in New Haven, Conn.

In the recent past, criminal proceedings were held in this city involving certain alleged violations of the Smith Act. The proposed hearings of this committee will not purport to cover the same subject matter; rather, these hearings will show a general pattern of Communist Party activities in the State of Connecticut.

This is a continuation of similar investigations and hearings held throughout the Nation by the committee. During the year the committee has held hearings in Charlotte, N. C.; Denver, Colo.; Chicago, Ill.; Los Angeles, Calif.; and St. Louis, Mo., where information was furnished to this committee on Communist activities in these particular localities.

These area hearings on the Communist conspiracy throughout the United States are to enable the committee to gain current knowledge of the operation of the conspiracy so as to enable us to formulate such legislation as the facts may warrant.

When investigating Communists and Communist activities, this committee frequently has been met with the false and unfounded charge that the committee is merely seeking headlines, that we are a

group of Fascists, that we are engaged in witch hunting, and the like. Such charges will not dissuade us from our duty. We seek the facts and only the facts.

In the conduct of this hearing we are not interested in any dispute between labor and management or between one union and another union. We propose to ascertain the facts on Communist activity, irrespective of the field in which it occurs, so that the Congress will be enabled to legislate more ably and comprehensively to protect the security of our Nation.

It is the standing rule of this committee that any person identified as a member of the Communist Party during the course of the committee hearings be given an early opportunity to appear before this committee, if he desires, for the purpose of denying or explaining any testimony adversely affecting him.

I would remind those present that we are here as members of the Congress and, as authorized and directed by the Congress of the United States, to discharge a duty placed upon us by Public Law 601. Spectators are here by permission of the committee. A disturbance of any kind or audible comment during the testimony, whether favorable or unfavorable, to any witness or the committee will not be tolerated. Any infraction of this rule will result in the offender being ejected from the hearing room. Please observe the rules of the Federal court that there be no smoking in this room.

Now I wish to welcome with us today your local Representative, Congressman Cretella. He is not a member of this particular committee, but, like all Members of the Congress, he is very much interested in the work of the committee and the end that we seek. We are happy to have him with us.

Congressman Frazier was unavoidably detained, and we are not certain whether he will be able to be here during the course of the hearings. But we are two here and, therefore, have a quorum.

We are happy to have you, Mr. Cretella, and hope you will be able to be with us throughout the hearings, if you find it convenient.

The gentleman on my left is General Kearney, Congressman Kearney, of New York. And I am wondering whether you would care to make any opening observation.

Mr. KEARNEY. No.

Mr. WILLIS. Would you care to, Mr. Cretella?

Mr. CRETELLA. No.

Mr. WILLIS. If not, our able counsel, Mr. Arens, may proceed.

Mr. CRETELLA. I might say this, Mr. Chairman, that, representing the Third Congressional District of Connecticut, I welcome you and my colleague, General Kearney, to New Haven, and I trust that your stay here will be enjoyable.

Mr. WILLIS. Thank you very much. This shows how fair things are on the committee: I am from Louisiana, and have a Republican on either side of me.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Bert Gilden.

Will you please come forward? Kindly remain standing, Mr. Gilden, so that the chairman may administer the oath.

Mr. WILLIS. Will you kindly raise your right hand, please?

Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. GILDEN. So help me God.

**TESTIMONY OF BERT DAVID GILDEN, ACCOMPANIED BY COUNSEL,
CATHERINE G. RORABACK**

Mr. ARENS. Kindly identify yourself, sir, by name, residence, and occupation.

Mr. GILDEN. May I be seated?

Mr. ARENS. Certainly.

Mr. GILDEN. My name is Bert David Gilden. I live at 181 Grove Street, Bridgeport, Conn. The spelling of my name is G-i-l-d-e-n.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Gilden, will you kindly have a seat.

Are you appearing today in response to a subpoena which was served upon you by the House Committee on Un-American Activities?

Mr. GILDEN. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Are you represented by counsel?

Mr. GILDEN. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. Will counsel please identify herself.

Miss RORABACK. Catherine G. Roraback, 185 Church Street, New Haven, Conn.

Mr. ARENS. Kindly give us, if you please, Mr. Gilden, a brief résumé of your early life. Where and when were you born?

Mr. GILDEN. Sir, before we proceed with the questioning, I have a procedural question which I would like to put to the chairman, and I am sure that, upon his answering, it would make it easier for me to answer the questions.

It is also a question which I believe would clear up, tend to clear up, statements as to the nature of this meeting.

I think the chairman has established this clearly, but I would like to put another question on procedure, if I may.

May I proceed?

Mr. WILLIS. I do not quite get what you are inquiring about.

Mr. GILDEN. I have a procedural question that has to do with the nature of the hearing.

Mr. WILLIS. I think you are intelligent, and you are represented by counsel, and as questions of procedure develop we will meet them.

Proceed, Mr. Arens.

Mr. GILDEN. This is a question that requires my full knowledge and understanding at the moment in order for me to go ahead with my answers.

Mr. WILLIS. Our opening statement speaks for itself.

Mr. GILDEN. May I seek counsel?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. ARENS. Where and when were you born?

Mr. GILDEN. I was born January 15, 1915; Los Angeles, Calif.

Mr. ARENS. Kindly give us, if you please, sir, a brief résumé of your education.

Mr. GILDEN. I began my education in the schools of Bridgeport. I would have to think back to the exact date at the moment.

Mr. ARENS. Your best recollection.

Mr. GILDEN. The first school I attended in Bridgeport was Shelton School, Wheeler Avenue in Bridgeport, Conn.

My family then moved to another section of the city, and I attended Barnum School on Noble Avenue, Bridgeport, Conn. Subsequently they moved again, and I attended Elias Howe School in Bridgeport, Conn. Subsequently I went to Central High School for 4 years in Bridgeport, Conn. Subsequently I attended Brown University at Providence, R. I.

Mr. ARENS. If you will pardon the interruption, Mr. Gilden.

When did you attend Brown University?

Mr. GILDEN. I attended Brown University from 1932 to 1936. Subsequent to that I went to the Armed Forces Overseas Training School, in the Army.

Mr. ARENS. Did you receive a degree from Brown University?

Mr. GILDEN. Yes. I received an A. B. degree, I believe.

Mr. ARENS. That was in 1936?

Mr. GILDEN. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. Pick up the thread of your narrative there, sir.

Mr. GILDEN. Subsequently I went—well, first, I took my basic training at Fort Knox in the Armed Forces Training Center. Then I volunteered to attend the Officers Candidate School in the armored force. I attended that for the 16 weeks, I believe—whatever that course was at the time. Then I attended the Fifth Army Battle School in North Africa; I attended the Armored Force Training School in Italy; I attended the Armed Force I. and E. School at the University of Sorbonne for several weeks in 1945, I believe it was. Subsequently to that—

Mr. ARENS. Excuse me.

You were a commissioned officer?

Mr. GILDEN. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. While attending these various schools?

Mr. GILDEN. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. What position did you hold?

Mr. GILDEN. I held the position of second lieutenant.

Mr. ARENS. Did you hold that commission throughout the period of your service?

Mr. GILDEN. No. I held that position from 1943 to 1945, I believe. Previous to that I was an enlisted man in the United States Army.

Mr. ARENS. Did you hold a commission besides that of second lieutenant?

Mr. GILDEN. I held a noncommission of sergeant.

Mr. ARENS. But you held no commission other than the commission of second lieutenant?

Mr. GILDEN. That is correct.

Mr. ARENS. I am not quite sure as to whether the record is clear as to your branch of service.

Mr. GILDEN. I was commissioned in the United States Cavalry, trained in the United States Armored Force. I was in tank work. Following my release from the Army in 1948, until approximately—let's see.

Excuse me.

The spring of 1949, the fall of 1949 to the spring of 1952—3 years, I believe—I attended the Professional Writers' Clinic at New York University.

Mr. ARENS. Will you excuse me a moment?

When were you actually discharged from the United States Army?

Mr. GILDEN. I think my discharge actually reads—it is a matter of public record. I think it is January 1, 1946, or December 31, 1945. I was in the Army from August 1941 to, let's say, the end of 1945.

Mr. ARENS. Now, if it will not discommode you, could you pick up the thread and narrative of your life at the time of your discharge from the Army at the end of 1945. I believe you said you started school. But the record should be quite clear as to the exact time.

Mr. GILDEN. I started school in 1949.

Mr. ARENS. Then will you pardon this interruption, sir.

From 1946 to 1949 how were you engaged?

Mr. GILDEN. When I got out of the Army I decided that I would pursue a fiction-writing career, that having been my ambition. And, because of my war experience, I felt that I had advanced to a level of maturity in which I must strive to create my creative ability to its highest level, which I have been always taught is in the level of fiction, which is in the study of relationships of people and character. In order to pursue that, I felt that I wanted to get away from what seemed to me to be the turbulent life of the East where I had lived, and that I would go into the South and find some quiet, romantic spot where I would be able to get myself in tranquility and peace away from the normal exigencies of pressures of life, that I would be able to write a body of work which would indicate to me, and to others as well, the amount of talent and the potential that I had in the field, which was my profoundest desire to participate in.

Mr. ARENS. Now we are in 1946?

Mr. GILDEN. Yes, 1946.

I proceeded—well, I think my original intention was to go to Florida, but in the process, because of events, mainly dealing with personal relationships, I stopped off at Georgia, and I remained in Georgia.

I was in the area generally of Savannah, south of Savannah, 100 miles, for, oh, 2 years in which I strove to the best of my ability to create a body of work which would prove as I have previously stated.

Mr. ARENS. Were you in the employ of any person or organization?

Mr. GILDEN. No, I was employed by no organization. I had no organizational contacts.

Mr. ARENS. Am I clear in my impression, from what you tell us, that you were a free-lance writer?

Mr. GILDEN. I think that would generally describe it.

Mr. ARENS. Can you tell us for what publications you were writing?

Mr. GILDEN. I was not writing for any publication. I was striving, as I said, to get a body of work.

Let me describe it this way: I had been taken out of my profession in 1941, when I went into the Army, and thrown into a situation of complete military activity. I was 21½ years in the frontlines. I was completely removed from any kind of relationship with my profession because of the nature of the war and the nature of the war situation that I was thrown into as a frontline soldier in particular.

Now, having been removed from that situation, therefore I was seeking a situation in which I could pick up the threads of my profession which had been shattered, and, in writing—practicing the writing—determine the extent of my ability and potential that I would be able to develop.

I was a free-lance writer without any connection whatsoever. I wrote for no magazine, but I did have contacts in New York because of my previous experience.

Mr. ARENS. And your works were published, I take it?

Mr. GILDEN. Subsequently, yes.

Mr. ARENS. In the form of books or articles? Or how were they published?

Mr. GILDEN. The published works that I have published are in the form of fiction stories.

Mr. ARENS. I see.

Mr. GILDEN. May I say, sir, that this is all a matter of public record. The Bridgeport Herald has constantly followed my career.

Mr. ARENS. Yes.

I believe we skipped a few years there in the sequence of events in your life.

You received your bachelor of arts degree in 1936, you said, and were taken into the Army in 1941?

Mr. GILDEN. That is correct.

Mr. ARENS. Give us a résumé or thumbnail sketch of your activity.

Mr. GILDEN. I had no education in that. You were asking me questions about my education.

Mr. ARENS. I understand.

Mr. GILDEN. Do you want me to revert to——

Mr. ARENS. Employment.

Mr. GILDEN. Are we finished with my education?

Mr. ARENS. I wanted to be sure that we have the correct chronology here. If you would pause and give us a quick fill-in on your employment activities from 1936, when you received your bachelor of arts degree, until you went into the Army.

Mr. GILDEN. I will have to proceed before that, because I worked at jobs previous to my graduation from college.

Mr. ARENS. I do not want to confuse you. Perhaps you would rather continue on your education, and then we can come back.

Mr. GILDEN. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Now we are up to 1949, as I recall your statement. And you said you had gone to some school, I believe, for the study of the arts or literature.

Mr. GILDEN. No, sir. I said that in 1949 I attended the Professional Writers' Clinic at New York University.

Mr. ARENS. 1949?

Mr. GILDEN. Which is not the study of the arts but the pursuit of the study of writing.

Mr. ARENS. In 1949.

Mr. GILDEN. That is right.

Mr. ARENS. Did you receive a degree?

Mr. GILDEN. There was no degree coming out of this kind of work. There is no school in this country which provides a degree for a professional writer.

New York University, Columbia, and perhaps 1 or 2 other universities in this country provide a situation in which a person who is a writer can present certain materials. They will decide the merit of this work. If the work is considered to be a meritable work, they thereupon allow you to attend this university so that you can continue

to develop as a professional writer or a writer who will ultimately meet the high standards of this field.

I did present my work that I had done in the South, in Georgia, as I stated before, during this period. I presented it to the Professional Writers' Clinic at NYU. They read the work and thought it was a work of merit and had a potential, and they thereupon allowed me to enter this university.

Mr. ARENS. Now, would you just tell us how long you attended the university?

Mr. GILDEN. Three years. I was at the Professional Writers' Clinic for 3 years.

Mr. ARENS. Would you characterize your status there from 1949 to 1952 as a student?

Mr. GILDEN. I would say "Yes," that I might call it being a student. I think it is a vague definition because I had already had a degree.

Mr. ARENS. That gets us up to 1952 in your education. Was there any other education besides that which you have described?

Mr. GILDEN. Any further education?

Mr. ARENS. Yes, sir.

Mr. GILDEN. In a formal sense; no.

Mr. ARENS. Perhaps you would like to tell us about any education in an informal sense.

Mr. GILDEN. About an informal sense, yes, I think I can talk about education in an informal sense. May I consult my attorney on this point, please?

Mr. ARENS. Surely.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. GILDEN. What I was referring to is a literary figure of speech, if you will, sir, one of the great writers—

Mr. WILLIS. The question is, as I understand it, Did he have any more formal education?

Mr. GILDEN. Informal.

Mr. ARENS. This completed your formal education at New York University?

Mr. GILDEN. That is right.

Mr. ARENS. Do you have any specialized or what you might characterize as informal training or education?

Mr. GILDEN. As I say, I am referring to this as in the literary sense—life itself is a school. During the past few years I considered my work, my political activity, all of which, of course, is of a public nature, as informal education.

Mr. ARENS. Is all of this political activity which you describe of a public nature?

Mr. GILDEN. I would say to a considerable extent; yes. I would say that I am a public figure and that generally my political activity is controversial and discussed; yes.

Mr. ARENS. Did you attend any of the institutions to which you have alluded, New York University in particular, under the GI bill of rights?

Mr. GILDEN. Yes, sir; I did. I exercised my right under the GI bill in fulfillment of my Army experience.

Mr. ARENS. Now, please, sir, let us revert to the chronology of your life, to your employment.

Tell us the principal employments which you have had since you gained adulthood.

Mr. GILDEN. I was employed—

Mr. ARENS. We are not interested in menial jobs, errand boys, jobs that a boy might have while going to school.

Mr. GILDEN. I think the first employment that I might indicate as an adult employee was while I was in high school. I was a correspondent for the local newspaper.

Mr. ARENS. What year was that? Do you recall?

Mr. GILDEN. Let's see.

Mr. ARENS. Just your best recollection.

Mr. GILDEN. In the nature of 1931-33.

Mr. ARENS. Then what next?

Mr. GILDEN. No, not 1931. I would say 1928 or 1929.

Mr. ARENS. What was the next significant employment that you had?

Mr. GILDEN. Well, I would say while I was going to Brown University I had many jobs which I would consider of an adult nature. For instance, I held a free-lance advertising job while I was at Brown, in order to earn a living. I sold advertising for a blotter which was distributed at the university.

One summer there, through a classmate of mine, I secured a job as cashier at the Rockingham race track. I earned my meals, and it was menial work with the restaurant.

Mr. ARENS. What was your next principal employment after your work on the paper?

Mr. GILDEN. I worked with Warner Bros. Pictures.

Mr. ARENS. Can you tell us when and where that was?

Mr. GILDEN. Yes. That was 1936 to 1941 approximately.

Mr. ARENS. All right, sir. What type of work were you engaged in for Warner's?

Mr. GILDEN. I was a publicist at Warner Bros. Pictures.

Mr. ARENS. Where was that, please, sir?

Mr. GILDEN. In New York City. I started out as an errand boy, and, if you are interested in it, I went to the publicity department as a trainee there.

Mr. ARENS. May we proceed after your work there.

Mr. GILDEN. I started as a trainee there, based on my college education, and when I finished I was the personal contact with the movie magazines.

Mr. ARENS. Then in 1941, after the conclusion of your employment with Warner's, what was your next employment?

Mr. GILDEN. The United States Army.

Mr. ARENS. You have told us about that, and that took you up to January of 1946 or thereabouts.

Mr. GILDEN. That is right.

Mr. ARENS. Kindly tell us what your next employment was.

Mr. GILDEN. My next employment—well, I was a free-lance writer, as we designated before.

Mr. WILLIS. I think he had explained that from 1946 to 1949—

Mr. GILDEN. Sir?

Mr. WILLIS. I think you explained the period from 1946 to 1949.

Mr. GILDEN. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. All right, sir; what did you do after 1949? What was your employment?

Mr. GILDEN. My employment generally was a combination of several things. As a student from 1949 to 1952, I was a free-lance writer at that time as well. I had several things published during that period, in collaboration with my wife. I think I had 3 or 4 stories sold during that period to magazines.

Mr. ARENS. Let us pick up the thread of your employment record from 1951 or 1952. Tell us where you were employed.

Mr. GILDEN. 1951-52?

Mr. ARENS. Yes, sir.

Mr. GILDEN. Again a combination of professions. I felt my general profession as a writer, because of a peculiar set of circumstances—my wife and I, who had begun to be established in our field—one of our stories was published quite widely.

Actually, sir, because of a situation that developed, until recently I was not quite aware of it, of the Cogley report, put out by—

Mr. ARENS. Fund for the Republic, Inc.?

Mr. GILDEN. Fund for the Republic. I began to understand exactly what did happen to me during that period.

Mr. ARENS. Employment opportunities were precluded to you?

Mr. GILDEN. I was a free-lance writer. I started to publish in major magazines in this country. Collier's magazine, for instance. I was looked upon in collaboration with my wife—we were looked upon as short-story writers of great ability and potential, and our representative, our literary representative, was making arrangements for us to submit our stuff to this magazine, first, because they wanted to see everything we did. They didn't want to sell it to any other magazine.

This was going on during this period, and, all of a sudden, the people became very cold and we didn't understand the nature, and we got very curt letters.

Subsequently, in reading the Cogley report, it became apparent to me that most writers were being cleared. As a matter of fact, we sold something some place that wasn't even published, and got paid for it. It was a script—nothing to do with politics, mind you, but a script about the war, actually.

Mr. ARENS. That was never published?

Mr. GILDEN. It was never published, never produced.

Mr. ARENS. What time are we in? 1952?

Mr. GILDEN. In that general area. Because of the Cogley report, it seemed to me that we did not get clearance in these channels, the perverse channels that had been set up—I am not a lawyer—in which people had to get clearance in order for them to get even fiction—

Mr. ARENS. What kind of clearance?

Mr. GILDEN. I am talking about the Cogley report. I don't know the details.

Mr. ARENS. Was that a security clearance?

Mr. GILDEN. FBI agents working for organizations called Red Channels—

Mr. ARENS. Is it my understanding that you were not able to get a security clearance?

Mr. GILDEN. This wasn't a security clearance.

Mr. ARENS. You weren't able to get a clearance?

Mr. GILDEN. You are more familiar with the Cogley report.

Mr. ARENS. What was your next employment in 1952?

Mr. GILDEN. May I finish the explanation?

Mr. ARENS. I beg your pardon. I thought you had.

Mr. GILDEN. No, sir; I had not.

I said I was a free-lance writer, and I continued to be, and my profession at the moment was a free-lance fiction writer.

What I was explaining was: During this period, though I didn't understand at the time, subsequently the Cogley report made it apparent to me that certain individuals were pointing out that I was a person of certain political activity, which I was, and this was a matter of public record—

Mr. KEARNEY. What political activity was that?

Mr. GILDEN. I had run as a candidate of the People's Party in 1950, I believe it was.

Mr. KEARNEY. Is that simply a political party in the State of Connecticut?

Mr. GILDEN. People's Party in the State of Connecticut affiliated with the Progressive Party of America.

Mr. ARENS. You were a candidate for the People's Party?

Mr. GILDEN. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Let us get on with the chronology of your labors.

Mr. GILDEN. That is what I am trying to do.

Mr. ARENS. You told us about the difficulty you had, and it had become apparent where you were unable during that period to—

Mr. GILDEN. To earn a living.

Mr. ARENS. Tell us what other employment you had during this time, 1951 and 1952.

Mr. GILDEN. What I was going to say, my major point: I was a free-lance writer, and the objective that my wife and I set for ourselves was to write a novel based on our own experience, which would be of such high standard and be so important and significant that there would be no censorship in any land or any country that could stop its publication.

Our study of history and our study of literature indicated that this high type of thing transcended any censorship on the part of the self-appointed guardians of our culture.

Mr. ARENS. Would you tell us of any other employment that you had in 1951 or 1952?

Mr. GILDEN. I believe it was in 1950, while I was attending the Professional Writers' Clinic. May I say, sir, before I proceed to answer, that I recognize—though I am sure it is not the intent of the committee—that the question this is leading into is the general atmosphere, general ignorance of the country—

Mr. KEARNEY. We cannot hear you up here.

Mr. ARENS. If you will kindly keep your voice up and tell us the employment you had in 1951 and 1952.

Mr. GILDEN. I want to point out a constitutional exception at this point.

Mr. ARENS. I did not understand you.

Mr. GILDEN. I want to point out a constitutional exception.

Mr. WILLIS. This is no forum to expound your theory on that open field yet. Maybe you will be given an opportunity after a while.

Counsel is simply trying to lay the foundation first for your education, which you did give after much time, and your employment. That is all he is talking about.

Mr. GILDEN. Yes; I will cooperate with the counsel, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Please tell the committee what employment you had in 1951 and 1952.

Mr. GILDEN. Sir, it is my understanding that procedural matters in these hearings have some precedence. I simply want to place a question of procedure, and then I will continue.

Mr. ARENS. All right, sir.

Mr. GILDEN. It will make it easier.

Mr. ARENS. Tell the committee what employment you had in 1951 and 1952.

Mr. KEARNEY. It would help if you shortened your answers a little.

Mr. GILDEN. Sir, I am attempting to give the committee as full a picture as possible.

Mr. KEARNEY. As for procedural points, I think the committee is familiar with those.

Mr. GILDEN. May I state that I will answer the questions that follow, but this is a question of my rights under the fifth amendment.

Mr. WILLIS. Mr. Arens, what is the pending question?

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, the pending question to Mr. Gilden is: In what employment was he engaged in 1951 and 1952?

Mr. KEARNEY. That is a very simple question.

Mr. GILDEN. I wish to simply state that under the fifth amendment, I believe that you are entering grounds which deprive me of my right to property, the right to hold a job.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, I respectfully suggest that the witness answer this question.

Do you honestly apprehend, Mr. Gilden, that if you told this committee, while you are under oath, the employment in which you were engaged in 1951 and 1952 you would be supplying information which might be used against you in a criminal proceeding?

Mr. GILDEN. Sir, I said—

Mr. ARENS. I respectfully suggest, Mr. Chairman, the witness be ordered and directed to answer that last principal question.

Mr. WILLIS. Yes; you are directed to answer the question, because that is the test of your good faith.

Mr. GILDEN. May I have the question repeated.

Mr. ARENS. I should be very happy to do so, Mr. Gilden.

Do you honestly apprehend that if you told this committee truthfully, while you are under oath, the employment in which you were engaged in 1951 and 1952 you would be supplying information which might be used against you in a criminal proceeding?

Mr. GILDEN. Of course not, sir. The answer is "No."

Mr. ARENS. Then, Mr. Chairman, I respectfully suggest the witness be ordered and directed to answer the question as to the employment in which he was engaged in 1951 and 1952.

Mr. WILLIS. You are directed to answer.

Mr. GILDEN. I shall proceed and answer that question. It is my intention to answer at all times, sir.

I simply wanted to indicate that the question transgresses a constitutional right.

Mr. WILLIS. Are you invoking that?

Mr. GILDEN. No; I am not invoking.

Mr. ARENS. Please state to the committee what your employment was in 1951 and 1952.

Mr. GILDEN. I state that, sir, in order to help this committee in its inquiry because I don't think—

Mr. KEARNEY. I think if the witness would answer the question we would be able to get along.

Mr. WILLIS. The simple question is what was the nature of your employment in 1951 and 1952. If you decline to give us that information, say so and we will proceed in another area of the investigation.

Mr. GILDEN. No, sir, I am very happy to answer that question because, as I said, I have done nothing incriminating.

Mr. WILLIS. All right.

Mr. GILDEN. As I said, my major employment in this period was as a free-lance writer.

In order to find the wherewithal to continue my education, I worked on production jobs in plants of Bridgeport, Conn.

Do you want all the details?

Mr. ARENS. Just tell us, if you please, where you were employed in 1951 and 1952.

Mr. GILDEN. 1951 and 1952. Let's see.

I think for several months there I worked at General Electric.

Mr. ARENS. Where did you work with General Electric?

Mr. GILDEN. Well, I worked—I have forgotten what the term was—in Bridgeport, Conn.

Mr. ARENS. What plant?

Mr. GILDEN. In the Bridgeport plant.

Mr. ARENS. What did they manufacture?

Mr. GILDEN. What did they manufacture there?

Electrical appliances.

One department I worked in was mercury switches.

Mr. ARENS. Were you a shop steward? Or did you occupy any particular post of significance in General Electric?

Mr. GILDEN. No, sir.

Mr. WILLIS. Were you on salary? Were you salaried?

Mr. GILDEN. I was a wage worker, yes, sir. I carried things on my back. You know—moved things around.

At mercury switch there were women on the line making these switches, and I was supposed to supply them with material.

Mr. ARENS. Did you work there both in 1951 and 1952?

Mr. GILDEN. Well, I was laid off for a while, and then recalled.

Mr. ARENS. Did you work during the years 1951 and 1952?

Mr. GILDEN. I don't remember exactly the chronology. I think it was 1949 and 1950.

Mr. ARENS. I show you now a photostatic copy of a document which has heretofore been identified before the committee as an employment record at the General Electric Co., which shows on it dates of employment and dates of leaving, Bert D. Gilden. That is you, is it not?

Mr. GILDEN. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. I ask you if that will refresh your recollection.

Mr. GILDEN. I imagine this is a public—well, I don't know whether it's a matter of public information.

Mr. ARENS. Is that substantially correct on the basis of your present recollection?

Mr. GILDEN. I think that is generally correct.

Mr. ARENS. Kindly tell us your next employment after your disassociation from General Electric in 1952?

Mr. GILDEN. I was—I think the major job I had during that year 1952 was the executive director of the People's Party during the 1952 campaign.

Mr. ARENS. Then your next employment, if you please, sir.

Mr. GILDEN. That lasted for about 8 months, and then I foolishly thought—not realizing the real nature—

I free-lanced for 8 months after that trying to recoup some of the losses in funds I had during the political campaign, since I donated so much time during that period. We free-lanced and we tried, to the best of our ability, to write things for TV, television field.

My wife and I thought that, well, this may be an outlet for our talents.

We did actually sell a script in this period, too.

Mr. ARENS. What year are you in now? 1953 or 1954?

Mr. GILDEN. Going into the spring of 1953.

Mr. ARENS. All right, sir, what was your next employment?

Mr. GILDEN. My next employment. We are going into the fall of 1954, and, again, may I state—

Mr. ARENS. Your best recollection.

Mr. GILDEN. This is secondary employment.

Mr. ARENS. Yes.

Mr. GILDEN. My major employment in this period was as a professional free-lance writer in the field of fiction.

The next period in my professional job: I undertook to write a novel as my principal occupation, in order to, as I previously stated—and, in order to finance that, I decided to take jobs in the plants again. The first plant that I worked in under this schedule was Exide Battery. I worked in the lead room there.

Mr. ARENS. All right, sir. Any other place where you worked?

Mr. GILDEN. I worked at Exide in the lead room until it was February of that year—no, no. Excuse me.

It was December of that year. It was December of that year.

May I consult with my counsel, please?

Mr. ARENS. Surely.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. GILDEN. I am raising a question with my counsel of picture taking. I think it is a little disconcerting.

Mr. ARENS. Please do not annoy the witness with any pictures at the moment, please.

Kindly tell us your next employment after Exide Battery.

Mr. GILDEN. I was laid off with Exide Battery, which, incidentally, was a nonunion shop. I was laid off with Exide in December, around Christmastime of December 1952, I believe it was.

Then the next major job that I had was—whatever it was; a little later; I forget the exact date—at the shaver division of Remington Rand, in which there was also no union and which manufactured electric shavers, and, to the best of my knowledge, did no Government work.

Mr. ARENS. And your next employment, please, sir.

Mr. GILDEN. My next employment.

I was laid off there in the following year.

The next major employment I had was with Vogel Manufacturing Co. for a short time, where I worked on a molding machine, plastic molding machine. And that place, too, was nonunion and had no Government contracts as far as I was able to ascertain.

Mr. ARENS. Your next employment.

Mr. GILDEN. My next employment was at Singer Manufacturing Co., Bridgeport, Conn., which had no Government contracts either, as far as I was able to ascertain.

Mr. ARENS. When did you commence your employment at Singer?

Mr. GILDEN. My employment at Singer was in April—let's see. Where are we now?

Mr. ARENS. Was it 1955?

Mr. GILDEN. That is correct.

Mr. ARENS. You are presently employed there?

Mr. GILDEN. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. In what capacity?

Mr. GILDEN. I am a small-parts man in the paint department. I think the official designation is a benchhand.

Mr. ARENS. When you applied at Singer for employment, did you explain to them on your application or by oral conversation something about your employment record in the past?

Mr. GILDEN. I filled out an application record, and I gave them the information that I felt would be pertinent to that kind of job, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Did you tell them about your prior employment with General Electric?

Mr. GILDEN. I don't recall, sir. I may or I may not have told them.

Mr. ARENS. Did you tell them about your education?

Mr. GILDEN. Well, I may. No; I think I omitted my education.

Mr. ARENS. May I lay before you a photostatic copy of a document entitled "Employment Application, Singer Manufacturing Co." dated March 14, 1955, bearing the signature of Bert Gilden.

First of all, I invite your attention to the part of the application which deals with education, and ask you whether or not you recognize that application, first of all.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. GILDEN. Yes; this is the application.

Mr. ARENS. You did not tell them on that application, did you, about your extensive higher education?

Mr. GILDEN. No, I don't see it there.

Mr. ARENS. You did not tell them on that application about your previous employment with General Electric, did you?

Mr. GILDEN. I listed the four previous employers. I didn't mention—yes. I don't see—it asked for 4 places, and I gave them 4 places.

Mr. ARENS. Was your disassociation from General Electric voluntary or involuntary?

Mr. GILDEN. From GE?

Mr. ARENS. Yes.

Mr. GILDEN. As far as I know, it was involuntary.

Mr. ARENS. That is your signature appearing on this photostatic copy of this application; is it not?

Mr. GILDEN. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Gilden, do you know a person by the name of Harold Kent?

Mr. GILDEN. Sir, would you identify Mr. Kent, please?

Mr. ARENS. First of all, can you tell us whether or not you have the recollection of knowing a person by the name of Harold Kent?

Mr. GILDEN. Harold Kent?

Mr. ARENS. Yes.

Mr. GILDEN. My recollection is that it was a person who was an informant at the Smith Act trials.

Mr. ARENS. Do you recollect knowing a man by the name of Harold Kent?

Mr. GILDEN. May I consult, please?

Mr. ARENS. Surely.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. GILDEN. It is my considered judgment in this that I will invoke the fifth amendment, exercise the rights under the fifth amendment not to testify against myself.

Mr. ARENS. Do you know a person by the name of Rowena Paumi? P-a-u-m-i.

Mr. GILDEN. May I consult, please.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. ARENS. Surely.

Mr. GILDEN. I will exercise my rights under the fifth amendment, on the same grounds.

Mr. ARENS. Do you honestly apprehend, Mr. Gilden, that, if you told this committee truthfully whether or not you know Harold Kent and Rowena Paumi, you might be supplying information which might be used against you in a criminal proceeding?

Mr. GILDEN. Well, I have been informed, sir, that both Mr. Kent and Miss Paumi stated publicly that they were members of the Communist Party in the Smith Act trial, and this leads to legal complications that, because of responsibilities of my family, I am not willing to involve myself.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, I respectfully suggest that the witness be ordered to answer the last principal question as to whether or not, if he were to supply this information, he would be giving information which might be used against him in a criminal proceeding.

Mr. WILLIS. You are directed to answer that question because that is a test of whether or not you are honestly invoking the privilege of the fifth amendment.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. GILDEN. Yes; I am invoking it in good faith, and it might be used against me according to the legal advice I have had.

Mr. ARENS. Do you think that information might be used against you in a criminal proceeding?

Mr. GILDEN. Yes; according to the legal advice that I have.

Mr. ARENS. Are you a Communist?

Mr. GILDEN. May I consult with my attorney?

Mr. ARENS. Yes.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. GILDEN. The legal advice that I have—I will exercise my right under the first and fifth amendments not to act as a witness against myself.

Mr. ARENS. While you were in the United States Army did you have access to confidential or restricted information?

Mr. GILDEN. So far as I recall; no, sir.

Mr. ARENS. While you were in the United States Army, or as a prerequisite to the obtaining of a commission in the United States Army, did you take an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States?

Mr. GILDEN. My best recollection is that I took that oath as an enlisted man; yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. At the time you took this oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States were you a member of a foreign-controlled conspiratorial apparatus?

Mr. GILDEN. May I consult my attorney.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. GILDEN. Will you repeat the question, sir?

Mr. ARENS. At the time you took an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States were you then a member of an organization controlled by a foreign power dedicated to the overthrow of the Government of the United States by force and violence?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. GILDEN. I am sorry I don't—You would have to elaborate.

Mr. ARENS. Were you a member of the Communist Party when you took the oath?

Mr. GILDEN. Well, sir, why didn't you say so? If that is what your question was.

Mr. KEARNEY. You have a chance to answer now.

Mr. GILDEN. Yes, sir. May I consult?

Mr. ARENS. Surely.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. GILDEN. I wish to exercise my rights under the first amendment and the fifth amendment, as previously stated.

Mr. KEARNEY. Just one question, counsel.

Following the question that counsel asked you, I would like to ask you this question:

If you were not a member of the Communist Party at that time, would you so state?

Mr. GILDEN. I didn't get your question.

Mr. ARENS. Were you a member of the Communist Party in 1941 when you were inducted into the United States Army?

Mr. GILDEN. I have already answered that question. I exercise my rights under the first and fifth amendments.

Mr. ARENS. While you were in the—

Mr. KEARNEY. Mr. Counsel, I would like to have that question of mine answered.

If you were not a member of the Communist Party at that time, would you so state?

Mr. GILDEN. Would I so state?

Mr. KEARNEY. Yes.

Mr. GILDEN. No; I wouldn't.

Mr. KEARNEY. I did not think you would.

Mr. GILDEN. I would be willing to tell you my reasons if you want to know them.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, I respectfully suggest that in the presence of this witness another witness be sworn.

Mr. Kent, will you kindly come forward?

You may take this seat, but remain standing while the chairman administers an oath to you.

Mr. WILLIS. Will you raise your right hand?

Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. KENT. I do.

TESTIMONY OF HAROLD KENT

Mr. ARENS. Will you kindly identify yourself by name, residence, and occupation?

Mr. KENT. My name is Harold Kent. I live in Bridgeport, Conn., 270 Success Avenue. I am a paint sprayer in the General Electric.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Kent, have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. KENT. Yes; I have.

Mr. ARENS. Without at this time giving us the details—because we expect to interrogate you at length later on—tell us the period of your membership in the Communist Party.

Mr. KENT. Well, I was in about a year or so in 1949, and I rejoined in 1952 until the beginning of the Smith trials.

Mr. ARENS. That was in 1956, this year?

Mr. KENT. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. During the course of your participation in the Communist Party, did you supply information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation at the behest of that agency?

Mr. KENT. Yes, sir; I did.

Mr. ARENS. During the course of your membership in the Communist Party, did you know a person by the name of Bert D. Gilden, Bert David Gilden?

Mr. KENT. Yes, sir; I did.

Mr. ARENS. Did you know that person as a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. KENT. Yes, sir; I did.

Mr. ARENS. Did that person identify himself to you as a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. KENT. Yes; he did.

Mr. ARENS. Do you see that person in the courtroom today?

Mr. KENT. Yes; I do.

Mr. ARENS. Would you kindly point out to the committee that person who was known by you to have been a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. KENT. Mr. Gilden is sitting to my left here at the table.

Mr. ARENS. Thank you.

Mr. KEARNEY. That is the witness now testifying, prior to the time you took the stand?

Mr. KENT. Yes, sir; that is correct.

TESTIMONY OF BERT DAVID GILDEN—Resumed

Mr. ARENS. Now, Mr. Gilden, you have just heard the testimony of Harold Kent.

In the presence of this committee, while you are under oath, look him in the face and tell him whether or not he was telling the truth when he identified you as a member of the Communist Party.

Mr. GILDEN. Sir, I looked him in the eye while he was making his statement. He did not look me in the eye.

I still will exercise my rights.

Mr. WILLIS. That is a very fine speech you made about looking him in the eye, and it is the type of complaint we hear all over the Nation.

When we call people of your type before this committee, the common complaint is that the accusers do not confront them, and they are ghost witnesses, and similar complaints.

Now, here is your chance. The witness has just testified under oath.

Now, will you look Mr. Kent in the eye, and answer counsel's question?

Mr. GILDEN. May I consult with my counsel?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. GILDEN. As a person who is steeped in the literary traditions, I must say to the press that this is a degrading experience, and I won't—

Mr. ARENS. Why do you not then stand up like a red-blooded American and deny the accusation made by Mr. Kent that you have been or are a member of the Communist conspiracy?

Mr. GILDEN. I have already said that this is a degrading experience, and I will exercise my rights under the first and fifth amendments.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, I respectfully suggest that Mr. Kent be temporarily excused.

Mr. WILLIS. Mr. Kent is temporarily excused.

Mr. ARENS. Now, while you were engaged in these various industrial establishments in the Bridgeport area, as you have recited in your employment record, were you under the discipline of the Communist Party?

Mr. GILDEN. I will exercise my rights under the first and fifth amendments.

Mr. ARENS. Could you tell this committee, on the basis of your literary background or upon the basis of any experience that you have had, what is meant by the term colonization in industry?

Mr. GILDEN. Sir, I never heard that term until the other day when I read it in the Michigan proceedings, and I am afraid I will have to ask you to define it.

Mr. ARENS. While you were employed in these various industrial establishments, did you undertake to enlist into the Communist Party any other person or persons?

Mr. GILDEN. Sir, I have already answered your questions.

Mr. ARENS. I respectfully suggest, Mr. Chairman, that the witness be ordered and directed to answer that question.

Mr. WILLIS. You are directed to answer.

Mr. GILDEN. I will exercise, as I have done before, my constitutional rights under the first and fifth amendments.

Mr. KEARNEY. May I break in here?

Mr. WILLIS. Yes.

Mr. KEARNEY. Mr. Gilden, I note that you are a Brown University graduate.

Mr. GILDEN. Yes, sir.

Mr. KEARNEY. And you also served in the Army of the United States.

Mr. GILDEN. Yes, sir.

Mr. KEARNEY. And I presume that you consider yourself a loyal American.

Mr. GILDEN. You don't have to presume that, sir; I do.

Mr. KEARNEY. Just answer my question.

I presume that you consider yourself a loyal American.

Mr. GILDEN. I consider myself a loyal American.

Mr. KEARNEY. All right.

Now, if you had any information concerning any organization which had for its aim and objective the overthrow of this Government by force or violence, would you give it to this committee?

Mr. GILDEN. Your question is vague, sir. Which organization are you talking about?

Mr. KEARNEY. Any organization.

Mr. GILDEN. If I had any knowledge of any organization—

Will you repeat the question, sir?

Mr. KEARNEY. Well, to a free-lance writer and a university graduate, I thought I made it pretty plain.

My question, again, in simple language, is this:

If you had any information concerning any organization which had for its aim and objective the overthrow of our Government by force or violence, would you give it to this committee?

Mr. GILDEN. May I consult with my attorney?

Mr. KEARNEY. Certainly.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. GILDEN. Did you say to advocate or which had as its purposes?

Mr. KEARNEY. Take either word you want, or both.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. GILDEN. I am afraid that the legal complications involved require that I must exercise my rights under the first and fifth amendments.

Mr. KEARNEY. I thought you would do that.

When you first took the stand here—I noticed the emphasis that you put on, when you were asked if you would tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth—you fairly shouted "So help me, God."

Mr. GILDEN. I what, sir?

Mr. KEARNEY. You fairly shouted "So help me, God." You made it very emphatic.

Mr. GILDEN. Is that a question, sir?

Mr. KEARNEY. I just made an observation. You do not have to answer that. I think I know the answer.

I noticed in your testimony you brought up, on various occasions, your profession as a free-lance writer. Will you tell this committee how many articles which you have written have been accepted by various magazines or other publications during the years you have been a free-lance writer?

Mr. GILDEN. Collier's magazine published a story of ours, my wife and I, in 1952.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. GILDEN. May I ask the chairman, Is this relevant?

Mr. KEARNEY. I think it is.

Mr. WILLIS. I think it is.

Mr. GILDEN. Would you state your grounds so that the people of Connecticut might be aware of the connection?

Mr. WILLIS. I think counsel might describe what he means by colonization. That would be the answer to your question.

Mr. GILDEN. No, sir.

The man is asking me about my writings. Mr. Kearney asked me about my writings.

Referring to that specifically, is that relevant to this inquiry?

Mr. WILLIS. I think it is.

Mr. GILDEN. I think this committee must consider that.

Mr. KEARNEY. I want to know whether you are a free-lance writer or not.

Mr. GILDEN. The Supreme Court has passed on this.

Mr. WILLIS. You took exactly 35 minutes talking about the free-lance writing and so on, and I thought you were very proud of it.

Now you are being given a chance to answer a few simple questions.

Mr. GILDEN. I raise the question of relevance. And do you say it is relevant?

Mr. WILLIS. The questions that you are asked are relevant.

Mr. KEARNEY. You have already testified in your own behalf as to your profession as a free-lance writer.

Mr. GILDEN. May I have the question?

Mr. KEARNEY. You named one magazine that accepted one of your stories.

Mr. GILDEN. Collier's accepted one story under the conditions that I outlined, in which it was considered that my potential as a writer was great, and they would buy many other stories. They asked my wife and I to send all the stories that we wrote. And, following that, when I ran for office on the People's Party of Connecticut, that same year, we got very cold reception from them.

Subsequently I published, in Liberty magazine, I published two stories. One of them was the "Unfinished House" based on the story of Georgia, published in Canada and in this country.

Also I sold 1, possibly 2, television scripts.

That is the extent. Other than that in the past 4 years, it is apparent, in this questioning, I have been trying to get over the situation described in the Cogley report.

Mr. KEARNEY. In other words, from your own statement, you have had four articles accepted?

Mr. GILDEN. Not even that.

In 1 year we sold 3 stories while we were at the clinic, in which we were considered by the professional writers in the clinic as professional writers.

Mr. ARENS. At the present time you recognize that you are under oath and subject to the pains and penalties of perjury?

Mr. GILDEN. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. Do you propose, as soon as you are released by this committee, to step out in the hall or step over to the representatives of the press and say, "Of course, I am not a Communist, never have been a Communist, but I am not telling that committee which is witch hunting all about that."?

Mr. GILDEN. Could I have that question repeated.

(The question was read by the reporter.)

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. GILDEN. I have no statement to the press. If they asked me questions I don't know what my answers would be.

Mr. ARENS. Are you presently under Communist Party discipline?

Mr. GILDEN. I must exercise my rights.

Mr. WILLIS. You say you must. Do you?

Mr. GILDEN. I shall exercise my rights as provided by the Constitution and as interpreted by the Supreme Court in recent decisions.

Mr. ARENS. While you were engaged in these industrial establishments were you under orders, directions by the Communist Party with reference to activities in which you would be engaged inside the plants?

Mr. GILDEN. May I consult.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. GILDEN. I have never engaged in any trade-union activities in the past few years—

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, I suggest that this witness be ordered and directed to answer the question.

Mr. GILDEN. My work in the plants has been strictly of a production nature. I am not a steward and I have no connections with the trade-union except just being a member.

I may say publicly that I have done this because someone might question my right to trade-union activity because of the nature of the hysteria along this line—I don't mean general hysteria but general activity—and I have been very careful not to do this.

Mr. ARENS. You are not asserting that with regard to the query of this committee with respect to your political views, are you?

Mr. GILDEN. No, sir, I am not referring to the committee. I am explaining to the committee that I never had any experience in trade-unions.

Mr. ARENS. Tell the committee, while you were employed in these industrial establishments whether you were under the discipline of the Communist Party? You can either answer that "Yes" or "No" or invoke the first amendment.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. GILDEN. I must exercise my rights under the first and fifth amendments.

Mr. ARENS. Do you honestly apprehend that if you told this committee that while you were engaged in these numerous industrial establishments in this area you were under Communist Party discipline and direction, you would be supplying information which might be used against you in a criminal proceeding?

Mr. GILDEN. It is a legal question. I must consult with my counsel.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. GILDEN. The question of the Communist Party discipline, to my mind, is a vague and moot question, and I wouldn't be able to answer it.

Secondly, I understand that there is a complicated legal question involved. I don't know what it's all about. If you weigh one thing—it's some kind of business.

Mr. ARENS. Just tell the committee while under oath whether or not when you were employed in these industrial establishments you were under Communist Party discipline.

Mr. GILDEN. Because of these reasons, I must exercise my rights.

Mr. KEARNEY. Do you consider the Communist Party as a political party?

Mr. GILDEN. May I consult my counsel.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. GILDEN. Yes; I would say that I consider it that.

Mr. KEARNEY. Not an international conspiracy?

Mr. GILDEN. I think that is a matter of judgment, sir.

Mr. KEARNEY. That is a matter of judgment for the people who belong to the party?

Mr. GILDEN. I think that is a matter of judgment generally, sir. I think the Communist Parties are in every country and every land. They are parties represented in various countries. They are legal parties.

Mr. KEARNEY. From where do they receive their orders?

Mr. GILDEN. Sir, I am not aware of that.

Mr. ARENS. If the Communist Party is only a political party in your judgment, tell the committee the political parties to which you have belonged in the course of the last few years.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. GILDEN. As I stated before, some legal complications are involved, and I don't want to get mixed up, and I exercise my rights.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, I respectfully suggest that Miss Rowena Paumi stand up in the rear of the courtroom.

Mr. WILLIS. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. Will you look over your shoulder and tell us whether or not you have ever seen the lady standing there?

Mr. GILDEN. May I consult with my attorney.

Mr. ARENS. Yes.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. GILDEN. I am sorry, sir, I will have to invoke my rights under the first and fifth amendments.

Mr. ARENS. Miss Paumi has told this committee that she has known you and known you to be a member of the Communist conspiracy. Was she lying or was she telling the truth?

Mr. GILDEN. May I consult?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. GILDEN. Because of the legal complications involved, in the Supreme Court decisions on the fifth amendment, I must exercise my rights under the first and fifth amendments of the Constitution.

Mr. WILLIS. At least you will admit that this committee has come to this great city of New Haven and put you on the stand, put you under oath; we have had two witnesses testify under oath, and you have had a chance to look them in the eye and state whether they are telling the truth or whether you are.

I hope that if you do intend to make a statement to the press after you leave, which is not unusual, that you might explain that to them.

Mr. GILDEN. Was that a question?

Mr. WILLIS. That was a statement.

Mr. GILDEN. As I said before, I had no statement for the press, and whatever questions they ask me I will answer them with my deepest convictions, as I have answered and acted in my whole lifetime, as you can see and as the press can see, at great personal sacrifice.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, I would respectfully suggest that would conclude the staff interrogation of this witness.

Mr. WILLIS. The witness will be excused.

May I suggest that we will take a short recess.

(Whereupon, a brief recess was taken.)

Mr. WILLIS. The subcommittee will come to order.

Will counsel call the next witness, please.

Mr. ARENS. Harold Kent.

Will you kindly resume the witness stand.

TESTIMONY OF HAROLD KENT—Resumed

Mr. WILLIS. The witness has already been sworn, has he not?

Mr. ARENS. Yes, sir.

Mr. Kent, for the sake of continuity in the record, I ask you to kindly give us a brief thumbnail sketch of your early life—where and when you were born, and a word about your education.

Mr. KENT. I was born in Philadelphia, Pa., in 1915, July 13, and I went to grammar school in Philadelphia and Salem, N. J. I also went to high school in Salem, N. J., and Woodstown, N. J.

I worked in the Du Pont Co. in Deepwater, N. J. I came to Philadelphia and worked as a parking lot attendant.

Mr. ARENS. What period of time was that, please?

Mr. KENT. This was about 1937 or 1938. And as a chauffeur and butler. Then I moved to Bridgeport, Conn., and I worked as a chauffeur-butler for Harvey Hubbell.

Then I went to the General Electric plant in 1943, and I have been working there ever since.

Mr. ARENS. In what capacity are you presently employed?

Mr. KENT. I am employed as a paint sprayer.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Kent, during the course of your life have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. KENT. Yes, sir; I have.

Mr. ARENS. Give us, if you please, sir, the periods of your membership in the Communist Party.

Mr. KENT. I was a member in 1949 for about a year, and I got out of it; and I got back in in 1952 until the present trial in New Haven last January.

Mr. ARENS. Who recruited you into the Communist Party?

Mr. KENT. Well, the first time, Josephine Willard and Jake Goldring.

Mr. ARENS. Where was that?

Mr. KENT. This was in Stratford, Jake Goldring's home.

Mr. ARENS. How long were you in the party?

Mr. KENT. Approximately a year.

Mr. ARENS. Were you ideologically at that time identified with the party?

Mr. KENT. Yes; I was.

Mr. ARENS. Then what happened?

Mr. KENT. Well, I got out of it. I found out what it was all about, and I got out.

Mr. ARENS. That was at your own volition?

Mr. KENT. That is correct.

Mr. ARENS. Then when you rejoined the Communist Party, as I understood you to say a moment ago, in 1952, at whose behest was that?

Mr. KENT. The FBI, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Then from 1952 until 1956 you were in the Communist Party as a servant of your Government in order to develop information for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Is that correct?

Mr. KENT. That is correct, sir.

Mr. WILLIS. May I ask one question that I think should be asked for the record.

As I understand, the first time you became identified with the party was at the solicitation of some active member whom you named, or two members?

Mr. KENT. Yes, sir; that is correct.

Mr. WILLIS. I suppose they told you about the ideals of the party having to do with the labor movement and so on, and painted the picture about like they paint to us here or to the newspapers, but that as you went along you found out for yourself there was something more to the representations than was portrayed. And so you got out as a good American citizen?

Mr. KENT. That is correct.

Mr. ARENS. Kindly tell us, if you please, the various positions which you held in the Communist Party.

Mr. KENT. I became a member of the City Committee of the Communist Party of Bridgeport in, I believe it was, April of 1953.

About the same time I also became a member of the Negro Commission of the Communist Party of Connecticut.

In February of 1954 I became a member of the five-man concealed State Board.

Mr. ARENS. Now identify or describe the State Board. Not the individuals on it but the board itself. What was the board and what was its purpose?

Mr. KENT. It was a concealed board which met in New York City about twice a month. This board comprised five men. The purpose of the board was to make a long-range planning for the Communist Party in Connecticut. It would hand its findings down to the new Executive Committee replacing the State committee at that time, and they would carry out the local planning.

Mr. ARENS. In the course of your experience in the Communist Party did you have specialized training?

Mr. KENT. I had some, sir. I went to the School of Social Science, Jefferson School of Social Science.

Mr. ARENS. In New York City?

Mr. KENT. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. How long were you trained there?

Mr. KENT. I had a course for 1 week.

Mr. ARENS. During the course of your experience in the Communist Party did you gain knowledge as to the membership of the Communist Party City Committee in Bridgeport?

Mr. KENT. Yes, sir; I did.

Mr. ARENS. Would you kindly tell this committee the names of the persons who to your certain knowledge were known by you to be members of the Communist Party on the City Committee in Bridgeport?

Mr. KENT. Well, there was Josephine Willard, who was the chairman; Frank Fazekas, who was a past chairman; Katcha Gilden, who was a member; Lois Barnes, Sam Richter, and, of course, myself.

Mr. ARENS. Do you here and now identify under oath each of these persons as a person who was known by you to be a member of the City Committee of the Communist Party?

Mr. KENT. Can I identify them, sir?

Mr. ARENS. Do you here and now identify under oath each of these persons as a person known by you to have been a member of the City Committee of the Communist Party?

Mr. KENT. Yes, sir; I do.

Mr. ARENS. Did you serve in closed Communist sessions with these people?

Mr. KENT. Yes, sir; I did.

Mr. ARENS. Did you serve in sessions in which only Communists were admitted with these people?

Mr. KENT. Yes, sir; I did.

Mr. ARENS. Now tell this committee who were the members of this concealed board that you have described, concealed board of the Communist Party.

Mr. KENT. The members of the concealed board were Sid Taylor, who was chairman, Bob Ekins, Jake Goldring, Irving Dichter, and myself.

Mr. ARENS. And Taylor, Ekins, and Goldring were the defendants in the Smith Act trials which were held in this State. Is that correct?

Mr. KENT. That is right.

Mr. ARENS. Now kindly tell us, if you please, sir, who were the members of the Negro Commission of the Communist Party with which you were identified.

Mr. KENT. Well, I can give you a list of the members, sir. After a certain period of time it was reduced because of the problem of meeting in security.

Mr. ARENS. All right, sir.

Mr. KENT. There was Jim Tate, Joe Demow, Al Young, Gibbs, from New Haven—I think his first name was Jimmy Gibbs. Roosevelt Ward, from Hartford; Cal Chapman, from Stamford. I believe there was one more. At the moment—his first name is Joe—I can't think of his last name.

Mr. ARENS. While you were employed at the General Electric Corp., were you likewise a member of a Communist Party fraction or cell which consisted of employees of General Electric?

Mr. KENT. Yes; I was.

Mr. ARENS. Over what period of time were you a member of that Communist Party cell?

Mr. KENT. I was a member of that cell during the years 1953 and part of 1954, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Was there a concentrated effort on behalf of the Communist Party to penetrate General Electric?

Mr. KENT. Yes, sir; there was.

Mr. ARENS. Tell us now who were the members of the Communist Party cell of which you were a member at General Electric.

Mr. KENT. There was Josephine Willard, who was the chairman. Joe Barnes was in that group temporarily while he was employed at

General Electric. Bill Pistey, Frank Fazekas, Ollie Arsenault, Mattie Sykes. I believe I named them all.

Mr. ARENS. Now can you tell this committee who served on the State Board of the Communist Party during the period of your membership? Have you given us the names of all of them?

Mr. KENT. Yes, sir; the concealed State Board, I did, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Who were the active leaders of the Communist Party to your certain knowledge in the Bridgeport area as of the time you came out from the party and testified in the Smith Act cases?

Mr. KENT. Well, there was Josephine Willard, Frank Fazekas, Bert Gilden, Katcha Gilden——

Mr. KEARNEY. That Bert Gilden. Is that the same individual who testified here prior to you?

Mr. KENT. Yes, sir; it is.

And Bert McLeach who I don't believe is around at this time, but during the time of the trial he was here.

Mr. ARENS. Was Joe Barnes a member of that group?

Mr. KENT. He was an active member, sir.

Mr. ARENS. During the course of your experience in the Communist Party were you active at any time in the People's Party?

Mr. KENT. Back during the days of 1949 and 1950 I was.

Mr. ARENS. Can you identify the People's Party? What was it?

Mr. KENT. It was a political party which in my area, in my knowledge, was controlled by the Communist Party. Most of the leaders in the organization were members of the Communist Party to my knowledge.

Mr. ARENS. During the course of your experience in the People's Party, did you ascertain whether or not the People's Party was controlled by the Communist conspiracy?

Mr. KENT. I'm not sure I understand the question.

Mr. ARENS. Do you know whether or not the People's Party was controlled by the Communists?

Mr. KENT. In my area; yes, sir, it was.

Mr. ARENS. In what area was that?

Mr. KENT. Bridgeport.

Mr. ARENS. Did you know Bert Gilden as a participant in the work of the People's Party?

Mr. KENT. Yes, sir; I did.

Mr. ARENS. Has Gilden ever identified himself to you as a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. KENT. Yes, sir; he has.

Mr. ARENS. Where and when was that?

Mr. KENT. He spoke of himself many times as, "we Communists." He has attended Communist Party meetings with me.

Mr. WILLIS. You mean meetings attended only by Communists?

Mr. KENT. Closed Communist Party meetings.

Mr. WILLIS. For communistic purposes?

Mr. KENT. Yes, sir. He attended the City Committee meetings. Although he wasn't a member, he attended them and he helped advise the committee on different problems.

Mr. ARENS. Do you know what Gilden's functions were, so far as the Communist Party was concerned, in the various industrial establishments in which he found himself?

Mr. KENT. I know that he was working in the different factories throughout Bridgeport on different jobs, such as material handler and other jobs, where he has expressed to me that he was able to make contact with more people that way.

Mr. ARENS. Was that a Communist Party function or Communist Party program?

Mr. KENT. That was a Communist Party program, to get to the masses of employees in the shops. To get the Communist Party program active in the shops you must bring it into the shops through the employees.

Mr. ARENS. Is that generally what is known as colonization?

Mr. KENT. Yes, sir; it is.

Mr. ARENS. During the course of your experience in the Communist Party were you ever alerted that the House Committee on Un-American Activities might be coming to this area?

Mr. KENT. Yes, sir; I have.

Mr. ARENS. What were you told by the comrades with reference to what you should do or what the comrades should do?

Mr. KENT. In 1954, when they set up the new Connecticut State concealed Board and I became a member of that board, I was told by the chairman of the board to discontinue my activities in the City Committee of the Communist Party of Bridgeport, and to get out, promptly get out of the General Electric group, and discontinue all of my activities in the Communist Party except in the concealed State Board.

Mr. ARENS. You would still, for all intents and purposes, be a member of the Communist conspiracy?

Mr. KENT. Yes; I would. They said they expected an investigation of this area sometime in the near future, and if I was called before this investigating committee there was a possibility that I may be instructed to admit my associations with the Communist Party and name a few names of known Communists in the State and clear my name and continue to work in the Communist Party.

Mr. ARENS. You were never told by the Communist Party to name any of the comrades who had not heretofore been publicly identified?

Mr. KENT. No, sir.

Mr. ARENS. During the course of your participation in the Communist Party from 1952 on were you in constant contact with the Federal Bureau of Investigation?

Mr. KENT. That is correct.

Mr. ARENS. You testified on behalf of the Federal Government in connection with these Smith Act cases?

Mr. KENT. Yes; I did.

Mr. ARENS. As a preliminary arrangement to your testifying in the Smith Act cases, was there any discussion developed as to what your status might be in the Communist Party?

Mr. KENT. I am not sure I understand the question, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Was there any suggestion that perhaps you would have to be tried yourself?

Mr. KENT. Well, there was a suggestion that I may be arrested with them, which I was.

Mr. ARENS. You were arrested with the other comrades?

Mr. KENT. Yes, sir, in New York City.

Mr. ARENS. Was there any suggestion that perhaps they might have to try you?

Mr. KENT. I don't recall it, sir. I don't believe so.

Mr. ARENS. Where were you arrested?

Mr. KENT. 380 Broadway in an artist's studio, New York City.

Mr. ARENS. Were you at that time giving the Federal Bureau of Investigation information respecting the operation of the conspiracy?

Mr. KENT. Yes, sir; I was.

Mr. ARENS. Now do you know or have you known a person by the name of Milton Weinberg?

Mr. KENT. Yes, sir; I do.

Mr. ARENS. Can you give us a little better identification? Who is Milton Weinberg?

Mr. KENT. I believe Milton Weinberg did work in the AVCO plant in Stratford.

Mr. ARENS. What company?

Mr. KENT. AVCO.

I have attended one or two meetings with him of the group captains of the Communist Party of Bridgeport.

Mr. ARENS. Do you know whether or not Milton Weinberg is or has been a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. KENT. Yes; I do.

Mr. ARENS. Do you know whether or not he has been?

Mr. KENT. He is a member of the Communist Party, or was.

Mr. ARENS. Did you know a person by the name of Sam Richter?

Mr. KENT. Yes; I do.

Mr. ARENS. Did you know Charlotte Richter?

Mr. KENT. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. Were they husband and wife?

Mr. KENT. Yes; they were.

Mr. ARENS. Can you give us just a word of identification of those two persons?

Mr. KENT. They live out in Trumbull. I believe it is Edison Road. Sam Richter was head of the group captains in the Bridgeport area.

Mr. ARENS. Group captains of what?

Mr. KENT. Of the Communist Party.

He was also a member of the City Committee of the Communist Party of Bridgeport.

Mr. ARENS. Do you here and now, while you are under oath, identify Sam and Charlotte Richter as persons, of your knowledge, to have been members of the Communist conspiracy?

Mr. KENT. Yes; I do.

Mr. ARENS. Did you know a person by the name of Frank Peterson?

Mr. KENT. Yes; I do.

Mr. ARENS. Can you give us a word of identification about him?

Mr. KENT. I have known Frank Peterson for a number of years as a Communist in the plant. He has been in some cases publicly known—his membership—in the Communist Party.

Mr. ARENS. Where did he work?

Mr. KENT. In the General Electric.

Mr. ARENS. Do you here and now identify him as a person who, to your certain knowledge, was a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. KENT. Yes; I do.

Mr. ARENS. Did you know a person or persons by the name of Joe and Lois Barnes?

Mr. KENT. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. Give us a word, please, describing them.

Mr. KENT. Lois Barnes was a member of the City Committee of the Communist Party of Bridgeport. Joe Barnes was for a while a member of the General Electric group, and also, I believe, he was in charge of the literature in the Bridgeport area.

Mr. ARENS. Literature for what?

Mr. KENT. Communist Party distribution of literature.

Mr. ARENS. Was Joe Barnes, to your certain knowledge, a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. KENT. Yes; he was.

Mr. ARENS. Did the Communist Party, during your period of service in the party up until 1956, recognize the importance of the Connecticut area industrially, to the industrial might of this country?

Mr. KENT. Yes; they do.

Mr. ARENS. Did the Communist Party have a specific concentration of people in this area?

Mr. KENT. Yes; they do.

Mr. ARENS. Is there any other fact which you would like to call to the attention of the committee? We have asked you a great number of specific questions, and we would like to ask you for any specific facts you would like to bring to the committee.

Mr. KENT. In the colonization work there were two large meetings which members attended for the Communist Party in Bridgeport, where it was stressed there that the efforts of the members of the Communist Party should be exerted toward the General Electric union and getting into the company union.

They should concentrate their efforts there.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, I would respectfully suggest that this would conclude the staff interrogation of this witness.

Mr. KEARNEY. I have no questions, Mr. Chairman, but I would like to say that we deeply appreciate the testimony of the witness here, the trials and tribulations you have gone through in the past few years in the service of the Government.

It is my humble belief that all Americans should thank people of your caliber.

Mr. WILLIS. Now you said that you knew very well the witness who preceded you here? Mr. Gilden?

Mr. KENT. Yes, sir.

Mr. WILLIS. You heard him say that he was a graduate from Brown University?

Mr. KENT. Yes.

Mr. WILLIS. Our information is that his scholastic rating was unusually high, and, from his own description of himself, he is an intellectual, and then the jobs that he described were most menial, the most laborious he could get in those plants. You said that that was your idea of what is known in communism as colonization. Is that correct?

Mr. KENT. Yes, sir; that is correct.

Mr. WILLIS. That is, to get these smart college intellectuals after their college education and to place them in plants to try to colonize the plants. That is your notion of colonization, is it not?

Mr. KENT. That is my understanding of it, sir.

Mr. WILLIS. I notice in his applications for these jobs the previous witness did not talk at all about his education.

By the way, that is the pattern we have heard time and time again throughout the country. That is exactly what these smart boys do.

I want to join with General Kearney in his commendation of the role that you took for the good of your country. As I understand, from 1952 until you testified just this year in the Smith Act trials, you were actually in the service and employment of your Government through the FBI. Is that correct?

Mr. KENT. That is correct, sir.

Mr. WILLIS. What you have told us under oath here is the same information you reported to the FBI. How often did you report?

Mr. KENT. If possible, within an hour or two after I left the meetings, whenever possible; or over the phone immediately after I left the meeting. I always tried to make my reports just as soon as possible.

Mr. WILLIS. If you were good enough to have had the confidence of the FBI and to have been asked by the FBI, because they had confidence in you, to serve your Government, you are good enough for me and you are good enough for America. And, on behalf of the whole Congress of the United States, I express the thanks that I think this community should likewise express to you. You are a great American.

We appreciate the service and the contribution that you have made for the good and the preservation of this great land of ours.

Mr. KENT. Thank you, sir.

Mr. WILLIS. The subcommittee will be in recess until 1:30.

(Whereupon, at 11:55 a. m., the committee was recessed, to be reconvened at 1:30 p. m., there being present at the time of taking the recess Representatives Willis and Kearney.)

AFTERNOON SESSION, SEPTEMBER 24, 1956

(The subcommittee was reconvened at 1:30 p. m., at the expiration of the recess, there being present Representatives Edwin E. Willis and Bernard W. Kearney.)

Mr. WILLIS. The subcommittee will come to order.

Counsel will please call the next witness.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Oliver Arsenault. Please come forward.

Please remain standing while the chairman administers an oath to you.

Miss KAUFMAN. Mr. Counsel, may I request that my client not be televised during these proceedings. He prefers it that way.

Mr. ARENS. Please remain standing.

Mr. WILLIS. Will you raise your right hand, please?

Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. ARSENAULT. I do.

TESTIMONY OF OLIVER L. ARSENAULT, ACCOMPANIED BY COUNSEL, MARY M. KAUFMAN

Mr. ARENS. Be seated, please.

Miss KAUFMAN. Mr. Chairman, may I understand that my client is not being televised during these proceedings?

Mr. WILLIS. Yes; if it is the wish of the witness, it will be so ordered.

Mr. ARENS. Kindly identify yourself by name, residence, and occupation.

Mr. ARSENAULT. My name is Oliver L. Arsenault.

Mr. WILLIS. How do you spell that?

Mr. ARSENAULT. A-r-s-e-n-a-u-l-t.

Mr. WILLIS. And your residence?

Mr. ARSENAULT. 153 Marigold Avenue, Bridgeport.

Mr. ARENS. And your occupation?

Mr. ARSENAULT. Machine operator in the General Electric.

Mr. ARENS. Are you appearing today, Mr. Arsenault, in response to a subpoena which was served upon you by the House Committee on Un-American Activities?

Mr. ARSENAULT. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. Are you represented by counsel?

Mr. ARSENAULT. I am.

Mr. ARENS. Will you kindly identify yourself, please.

Miss KAUFMAN. Mary M. Kaufman, of 201 West 85th Street, New York City.

Mr. ARENS. When and where were you born?

Mr. ARSENAULT. I was born in Prince Edward Island, Canada, the 1st of February 1909.

Mr. ARENS. When did you come to the United States?

Mr. ARSENAULT. In 1918.

Mr. ARENS. Did you immigrate to the United States for permanent residence in 1918?

Mr. ARSENAULT. Yes; I did.

Mr. ARENS. Are you a naturalized citizen of the United States?

Mr. ARSENAULT. I am.

Mr. ARENS. Where and when were you naturalized?

Mr. ARSENAULT. I was naturalized in Bridgeport in 1937.

Mr. ARENS. Now kindly give us, if you please, sir, a brief sketch of your educational background.

Mr. ARSENAULT. I attended approximately a year and a half of grammar school in Canada. That is Prince Edward Island. I attended six grades of grammar school in Massachusetts at St. Anne's parochial school.

Mr. ARENS. Did that complete your formal education?

Mr. ARSENAULT. That is right.

Mr. ARENS. Kindly tell us what year you completed your formal education in school. Your best recollection.

Mr. ARSENAULT. 1923.

Mr. ARENS. Would you kindly give us a brief résumé of the employment you have had since completion of your formal education?

Mr. ARSENAULT. I completed my formal education at the age of 14 years old.

Seeing that we were a large family, with 9 in the family, and my father was the sole provider, I quit school at 14 to take various jobs on farms.

After I reached the age of 16, I received employment in two textile mills; first, at one of the textile mills they call Shawsheen, outside of Lawrence, Mass. I worked there for a period of 6 months or so, and was laid off.

In the year 1927—I forget now. I believe I worked in two different mills. I also worked—prior to that time I worked as a bagger in the woodyard to help out with expenses in the family on account of the large family we had.

In 1927, due to the lack of work in Lawrence, Mass., I had friends—personal friends of the family—who lived in Bridgeport, and I came to Bridgeport because they informed me there was a possibility of getting a job.

I was successful in getting a job in Bridgeport Brass.

Mr. ARENS. Tell us the period of time when you began your employment there.

Mr. ARSENAULT. I worked there from February 1927, until the 28th of April, approximately a year at the first. Then I went back to Massachusetts, because my family requested me. They thought there was a possibility of getting employment there and I would be more of a help to the family.

I went back to Massachusetts and was successful in getting a job with a contractor. I worked directly for the St. Anne's parish, the same place I attended school. It was only a temporary job.

After that I worked also—they laid me off there because it was only a temporary job. I was successful for getting employment for 2 weeks—that was the understanding—with a private contractor breaking up machinery because the textile machinery at that time was shaky, and some of these companies wanted to go down South. This company here, apparently in the process of moving—I can't tell you the name of the contractor or the company—in process of moving, went bankrupt, and they decided to sell the machinery for junk.

Mr. ARENS. Now, your next employment was when?

Mr. ARSENAULT. Then after that, in the fall——

Mr. ARENS. Of what year?

Mr. ARSENAULT. Of 1928.

I came back to Bridgeport. I would say that was about the month of maybe September or October.

Mr. ARENS. And your next employment, please.

Mr. ARSENAULT. I was slow in getting back my job in the brass shop. That was a job that they offered me——

Mr. ARENS. Was that Bridgeport Brass Co.?

Mr. ARSENAULT. Bridgeport Brass.

They offered me a job in the buffing room, which was my previous job, and then I was transferred to working 13 hours, from 6 o'clock at night to 7 o'clock in the morning.

With the money that I was successful in earning I was able to bring another one of my brothers to Bridgeport, and, between the two of us——

Mr. ARENS. He came from Canada?

Mr. ARSENAULT. No; he came from Lawrence, Mass. My whole family lived in Lawrence, Mass., at that time.

Mr. ARENS. I see.

Mr. ARSENAULT. Between the two of us, we saved enough money to pay the expenses of my whole family to come to Bridgeport.

Also, I met, say at the end of that spring—before my family came; about the month of February—we also sent for another of my younger brothers, who was about 16.

Mr. ARENS. Tell us about your employment, which is the theme that we are following at this time.

Mr. ARSENAULT. My next employment was 11 to 7 in the brass shop. After that, when my folks came to Bridgeport, my mother felt that was too much of a strenuous job, and some of the rest of the family were successful in getting employment. She felt I ought to be transferred to a day job. They weren't too enthused about it, and I applied for a job with General Electric, which I received, I believe, in April of 1929. I worked there for 2 years—

Mr. ARENS. That was where again?

Mr. ARSENAULT. General Electric, 1929-31, I worked in General Electric. At that time, if you remember, there was lots of layoffs, but I was able, with a friend of mine, working part time, although at that time I was working 4 days a week—I was able to get a job as a house-to-house salesman selling fluid water; bleaches they called it.

I stayed with this company for 6 or 8 months. I worked also in Schenectady.

Mr. ARENS. What was the name of that company?

Mr. ARSENAULT. That was the Made-Right.

Mr. ARENS. It was a house-to-house product?

Mr. ARSENAULT. Correct.

Mr. ARENS. How long were you with that company?

Mr. ARSENAULT. I was with that company approximately 6 or 7 months.

Mr. ARENS. Then what was your next employment?

Mr. ARSENAULT. My next employment was—I remember applying in General Electric in 1933, August, and I was rehired.

Mr. ARENS. Where?

Mr. ARSENAULT. In General Electric, Bridgeport.

Mr. ARENS. How long did you maintain that employment?

Mr. ARSENAULT. Until this day.

Mr. ARENS. And in what capacity are you presently employed?

Mr. ARSENAULT. As a machine operator.

Mr. ARENS. Have you had any education other than the education which you have told us about?

The last education you told us about was the grammar school at St. Anne's School. Have you had any other education?

Mr. ARSENAULT. May I consult my counsel?

Mr. ARENS. Surely.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. ARSENAULT. Do you mean formal education?

Mr. ARENS. Let's try it both ways. Have you had any other formal education?

Mr. ARSENAULT. Formal education?

Mr. ARENS. Yes.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. ARSENAULT. No.

Mr. ARENS. Tell us about any informal education you may have had.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. ARSENAULT. I decline that question on the grounds of the first and fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Have you had specialized training of some kind?

Mr. ARSENAULT. May I consult with my counsel?

Mr. ARENS. Surely. Mr. Arsenault, at any time when you feel there is any question of your constitutional right, you are at perfect liberty to consult with counsel.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. ARSENAULT. I don't know what you mean when you say specialized training.

Mr. ARENS. Well, what training have you had other than the training you have heretofore announced to the committee?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. ARSENAULT. Do you mean in my work or profession?

Mr. ARENS. Any kind of training.

Mr. ARSENAULT. No.

Mr. ARENS. You had no other kind of training?

Mr. ARSENAULT. No; not if I understand your question.

Mr. ARENS. Have you attended any classes of any kind, character, or description?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. ARSENAULT. I decline to answer that question on the first amendment.

Mr. ARENS. When did you attend these classes, if you attended?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. ARSENAULT. I also decline for the same reason.

Mr. ARENS. Why is it you attended classes, if you attended classes?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. ARSENAULT. I decline for the same reasons.

Mr. ARENS. Have you ever been a member of the board of education?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. ARSENAULT. That is a matter of record.

Mr. ARENS. Tell us whether or not you have been a member of the board of education.

Mr. ARSENAULT. Yes; I have.

Mr. ARENS. When were you a member of the board of education, and for what school or community?

Mr. ARSENAULT. I was a member of the board of education in Bridgeport from 1943—an elected member of the board of education—from 1943 to 1945.

Mr. ARENS. What were your duties and responsibilities as a member of the board of education?

Mr. ARSENAULT. Well, you mean—you see the board of education is divided into communities.

Mr. ARENS. What committee did you serve on?

Mr. ARSENAULT. On the school committee.

Mr. ARENS. How many other members were there on this committee of the Bridgeport Board of Education?

Mr. ARSENAULT. There were supposed to be seven members, I believe.

Mr. ARENS. What committee did you serve on? What subcommittee did you serve on?

Mr. ARSENAULT. The school.

Mr. ARENS. The school committee?

Mr. ARSENAULT. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. What were your duties as a member of the school committee of the board of education?

Mr. ARSENAULT. To see that the schools, the grounds, and the buildings themselves were upheld; to make reports to the committee themselves for repairs; and work in conjunction with the director. They have what they call a director who takes care of the schools.

Mr. ARENS. This was an elected position?

Mr. ARSENAULT. Right.

Mr. ARENS. Have you ever been identified with a labor organization?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. ARSENAULT. Are you asking right now if I have been identified as a member of a trade union?

Mr. ARENS. Any labor organization, yes—a perfectly honorable association, I assure you.

Mr. ARSENAULT. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. Tell us about any affiliation you have had with a labor organization.

Mr. ARSENAULT. I have been affiliated with the United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers of America.

Mr. ARENS. Commonly referred to as UE?

Mr. ARSENAULT. UE.

Mr. ARENS. Will you tell us about your affiliation with the UE?

Mr. ARSENAULT. I was a charter member of Local 203, and one of the founders of 203 in organizing the local itself.

Mr. ARENS. In what period of time?

Mr. ARSENAULT. Approximately, I would say, maybe the latter part of 1935 and the beginning of 1936.

Mr. ARENS. Just for 2 years?

Mr. ARSENAULT. No. I am telling you about the time that we started.

Mr. ARENS. You started in with this organization in 1935 or 1936. Is that correct?

Mr. ARSENAULT. That is right.

Mr. ARENS. How long did you maintain your affiliation?

Mr. ARSENAULT. Until the UE lost their election here and were no longer the bargaining agency for General Electric.

Mr. ARENS. When was that?

Mr. ARSENAULT. That question, I am not sure.

Mr. ARENS. What is your best recollection? Was it in the forties or the fifties?

Mr. ARSENAULT. This I am not sure of.

Mr. ARENS. Have you ever been president of the local?

Mr. ARSENAULT. Yes. I was president of the local from the beginning of the local, for 7 years.

Mr. ARENS. What was the membership of the local?

Mr. ARSENAULT. The membership of the local started very small. Naturally, we were building it up, and the employees of General Electric were on a smaller scale than in later years.

At that time there were approximately, when we filed for NLRB, I would say close to 2,000 or 2,500.

Mr. ARENS. I did not get that number.

Mr. ARSENAULT. About 2,500 employees in the plant.

Mr. ARENS. How many of those employees were members of Local 203?

Mr. ARSENAULT. When we started I would say it was approximately—started organizing—it was very small because we were only a few, and by the time—

Mr. ARENS. What was the maximum number in Local 203, UE?

Mr. ARSENAULT. At any time?

Mr. ARENS. Yes.

Mr. ARSENAULT. 6,000. Approximately 6,000.

Mr. ARENS. Was that during your tenure of office as president?

Mr. ARSENAULT. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Did you appoint the shop stewards?

Mr. ARSENAULT. No. They were elected by departments.

Mr. ARENS. Were the activities of the shop stewards in the organizational arrangement subject to your direction in Local 203?

Mr. ARSENAULT. They were not subject to my direction. They were subject to the stewards council which they were a part of, and in the interim they were subject to the executive board.

The executive board met twice a month.

Mr. ARENS. How many were on the executive board of Local 203?

Mr. ARSENAULT. That depended. As the plant grew we had 1 member from each section that was part of the executive board, including the 10 officers.

Mr. ARENS. Were you ever disassociated from Local 203?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. ARSENAULT. Would you repeat that question, please?

Mr. ARENS. Were you ever disassociated from Local 203?

Mr. ARSENAULT. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. When was that?

Mr. ARSENAULT. I believe it was in 1947 or 1948.

Mr. ARENS. What occasioned that disassociation?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. ARSENAULT. I do know that I received an expulsion notice, but to tell you what was in the expulsion notice I can't tell.

Mr. ARENS. When were you expelled?

Mr. ARSENAULT. I believe it was sometime in 1947 or 1948.

Mr. ARENS. Did you thereafter ever reaffiliate or reassociate with Local 203?

Mr. ARSENAULT. I tried it. That is, Local 203: we presented applications.

Mr. ARENS. Did you thereafter ever become affiliated with a labor organization?

Mr. ARSENAULT. No.

Mr. ARENS. Are you presently affiliated with a labor organization?

Mr. ARSENAULT. No.

Mr. ARENS. Were you ever a candidate for public office?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. WILLIS. He said he was elected to the board of education.

Mr. ARENS. Other than your service on the board of education?

Mr. ARSENAULT. I refuse to answer that question on the first and fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Do you honestly apprehend that if you told this committee whether or not you have ever been a candidate for public office other than the service you have told us about as a member of the board of education, you would be supplying information which might be used against you in a criminal proceeding?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. ARSENAULT. Under today's conditions my answer is Yes.

Mr. ARENS. I lay before you, sir, a photostatic copy of the Communist Daily Worker of August 21, 1949. I invite your attention specifically to an article appearing on page 7 entitled "The People's Party Nominates Election Slate," setting forth the names of a number of candidates on the People's Party of Bridgeport, including the name of an Oliver Arsenault identified here, for 7 years, president of the GE local, and former member of the Bridgeport Board of Education.

Does that refresh your recollection as to any candidacy by yourself for public office?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. ARSENAULT. I did not state that I have no recollection.

I stand on the same answer I previously gave.

Mr. ARENS. I put it to you as a fact and ask you to affirm or deny the fact that you were a candidate for treasurer of the People's Party of Connecticut.

Mr. ARSENAULT. I give the same answer. I stand on the first and fifth amendments.

Mr. ARENS. During the tenure of yourself as president of Local 203 of the General Electric UE workers, was there a person identified with you in the local by the name of Josephine Willard?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. ARSENAULT. I refuse to answer on the first and fifth amendments.

Mr. ARENS. During the course of your tenure as president of the Local 203 of UE in this area, were you, in the operation of your office, under the discipline of an organization not directly a part of that local union?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. ARSENAULT. I give the same answer as previously.

Mr. ARENS. At the time you were naturalized in 1937 did you take an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America?

Mr. ARSENAULT. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. At that time, when you took that oath, were you a member of an organization dedicated to the destruction of the Constitution of the United States and the overthrow of the Government of the United States by force and violence?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. ARSENAULT. I decline for the same reason.

Mr. ARENS. Did you take that oath to become a citizen of the United States with any reservation?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. ARSENAULT. May I ask what you mean by reservation?

Mr. ARENS. Did you have a mental reservation at the time you took the oath to become a citizen of the United States and pledge yourself to support and defend the Constitution of this country?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. ARSENAULT. No, I never had any mental reservations.

Mr. ARENS. Were you at that time a member of the Communist Party?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. ARSENAULT. I decline to answer for the same reason.

Mr. ARENS. I put it to you as a fact and ask you to affirm or deny it is a fact that in 1937, when you took the oath of allegiance, you were a member of the Communist Party.

If it is not so, deny it under oath.

Mr. ARSENAULT. Will you state it again?

Mr. ARENS. I put it to you as a fact and ask you to affirm or deny the fact that in 1937, when you took the oath of allegiance to support the Constitution of the United States, you were then a member of the Communist Party.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. ARSENAULT. I decline on the same reason.

Mr. KEARNEY. Mr. Counsel, it seems to me that we are getting into a field here that needs a little more explanation, for the simple reason that I am convinced, by the witness' answers, that this is the proper subject for the Federal authorities.

If he was a member of an organization dedicated to the overthrow of our Government when he became a naturalized citizen, I think legally he should lose his citizenship and be deported.

Mr. ARENS. Were you a member of the Communist Party when you gained admission into the United States?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. ARSENAULT. At the time I entered the United States I was 7 years old.

Miss KAUFMAN. Congressman Kearney, may I suggest to the Congressman at this time that the refusal to answer questions on the grounds of the fifth amendment does not constitute an admission of the fact, which appears—

Mr. KEARNEY. The witness has a recollection of his own, madam.

Miss KAUFMAN. I am informing the witness of his rights to proceed.

Mr. ARENS. Kindly tell us whether or not you were a member of the Communist Party within the period of 10 years prior to the time you took the oath of allegiance to become a citizen of the United States. That would be any time between 1927 and 1937.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. ARSENAULT. Under the climate that prevails today, I decline to answer that under the fifth amendment.

Mr. KEARNEY. Under the climate which prevails today? What was that answer?

Mr. ARENS. His answer was that under the climate which prevails today.

Mr. KEARNEY. Does he mean the climate which was expressed in this morning's newspaper by the Communist Party that it was not dedicated to the forceful overthrow of the United States?

Mr. ARENS. Are you presently a Communist?

Mr. ARSENAULT. I refuse to answer on the same grounds.

Mr. ARENS. Are you presently a member of an organization dedicated to the forceful overthrow of the United States?

Mr. ARSENAULT. I refuse to answer on the same grounds.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Kent, would you kindly stand up?

Please look over your right shoulder, Mr. Arsenault.

Tell us whether or not you have ever seen that gentleman before.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

MR. ARSENAULT. I refuse to answer for the same reason.
(The witness confers with his counsel.)

MR. ARENS. This man testified under oath and subjected himself and his future to the pains and penalties of perjury. He stated this morning before this committee that he knew you as a member of the Communist Party.

While you are under oath tell this committee whether or not he was lying or telling the truth.

MISS KAUFMAN. You are not suggesting, Mr. Arens, you are not attempting to coerce the witness to abandon his privilege under the fifth amendment by these questions; are you?

MR. ARENS. Would you kindly answer the question.

I respectfully suggest that the counsel be guided by the rules of the committee which circumscribe the duties of counsel.

Now would you kindly tell this committee whether or not Mr. Kent was lying or telling the truth this morning when he took an oath and subjected himself to the pains and penalties of perjury and stated he knew you as a member of the Communist conspiracy?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

MR. ARSENAULT. I refuse to answer.

MR. ARENS. Please stand, Miss Paumi.

Will you look over your shoulder, Mr. Arsenault, and tell us whether or not you have seen that lady before?

MR. ARSENAULT. I refuse to answer under the same privilege.

MR. ARENS. Miss Paumi has told this committee that she knew you as a member of the Communist conspiracy.

Was she lying or telling the truth?

MR. ARSENAULT. I refuse to answer on the same privilege.

MR. ARENS. Do you honestly apprehend that if you told this committee whether or not Harold Kent and Rowena Paumi were telling the truth, you would be supplying information which might be used against you in a criminal proceeding?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

MR. ARSENAULT. Would you repeat that question again.

MR. ARENS. Will you kindly tell this committee whether or not, if you truthfully told us whether Harold Kent and Rowena Paumi were telling the truth when they identified you as a member of the Communist conspiracy, you would be supplying information which might be used against you in a criminal proceeding?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

MR. ARSENAULT. I have to rest on my privilege.

MR. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, I respectfully suggest that the witness be ordered and directed to answer that question.

MR. WILLIS. You are directed to answer that question.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

MR. ARSENAULT. I would ask that you rephrase that question because an answer yes or no—

MR. ARENS. Surely.

Do you honestly apprehend, sir, that if you told this committee while you are under oath whether or not Mr. Kent and Miss Paumi were telling the truth when they identified you as a member of the Communist

conspiracy, you would be supplying information which might be used against you in a criminal proceeding?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. ARSENAULT. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. That will conclude the staff interrogation of this witness, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. KEARNEY. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask whether Mr. Kent and Miss Paumi identified this witness during these present hearings as a member of the Communist Party.

Mr. ARENS. General Kearney, Mr. Kent has done so. Miss Paumi has yet to testify.

Mr. KEARNEY. I would suggest that that be done because I am going to ask the chairman of the committee to bring this case to the attention of the immigration authorities and the Federal district attorney.

Mr. ARENS. Miss Paumi is scheduled to testify, General Kearney.

The chairman of this subcommittee has requested me to lay before you this proposition, Mr. Arsenault:

Under the law, which was enacted by the Congress in the course of the last couple of years, persons who have been called before congressional committees may, under certain circumstances, be granted immunity from prosecution in the criminal courts if they give information to the committee and if the committee makes certain recommendations.

I ask you now, if the committee institutes proceedings to cause you to be granted immunity from criminal prosecution, will you tell this committee, in response to questions which will be posed to you, all of your activities while you were president of the General Electric UE local in the Connecticut area?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. ARSENAULT. I cannot answer that question; that is a hypothetical question that I am confronted with.

Mr. WILLIS. No; it is not a hypothetical question. It is the most practical question that has been asked of you, and I will tell you why, at least what prompted me to suggest to counsel that he make that statement to you.

You said that under the climate that exists today you had to invoke the privilege of the fifth amendment. You said that you honestly apprehended that if you were to answer the questions which we have asked you that you might in some way subject yourself to criminal prosecution.

Now, if what you have said is true, if you really believe, honestly believe, that there is a climate which forbids you or prevents you or impels you to fear that you cannot speak out and if you honestly so apprehend, and that is the reason for your statement, then the question which counsel asked you is simply this: If we remove that fear of prosecution would you then talk freely and answer all questions asked on which you can shed light?

I said that is a very practical question, and it is a test of whether or not you really believe there is such a climate, that you are really under some apprehension about what might happen. You do not have to answer it. You can do what you want, but I did want to test, through counsel, as to whether or not you really want to cooperate. We would really appreciate it if you would cooperate and help us in the duty

we have to perform. It is not a pleasant thing for me to leave Louisiana, for General Kearney to leave New York to come here, but it is a job imposed on us by the Congress.

Let me tell you this:

We make a report to Congress every year, and this year there was only one Member of Congress who did not vote to order us to continue this job.

We would like very much for you to cooperate with us. You do not have to do it if you do not want to, but do not imply anything else beyond saying "I do want to" or "I do not want to" because then we might have to draw our own conclusions.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. ARSENAULT. When I speak about climate I mean that through these hearings and so forth a lot of people—

Mr. WILLIS. Now there is a question.

Mr. ARSENAULT. You just want an answer yes or no?

Mr. WILLIS. Not necessarily. The question is, if we remove the fear of prosecution by taking steps to grant you immunity, would you then answer all pertinent questions concerning any knowledge you might have about the machinations of the Communist conspiracy in this area or any other area with which you are familiar? That is what it amounts to.

Mr. ARSENAULT. Just like I said, because of the climate and causing lots of people to lose their jobs, and like that, I still have to claim the first and fifth amendments.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, that concludes the staff interrogation of this witness.

Mr. WILLIS. I might suggest—and I am being very honest with you—that I have an idea that you would be in a better position if you spoke out freely and honestly in the stand you have taken.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, the next witness is Mr. Frank H. Fazekas.

Will you kindly come forward!

Please remain standing, Mr. Fazekas, while the chairman administers an oath to you.

Mr. FAZEKAS. I don't want no television or pictures!

Mr. WILLIS. May I say, before you take the oath, that under our rules pictures may be taken before you start testifying.

Will you raise your right hand, please.

Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. FAZEKAS. I do.

TESTIMONY OF FRANK HENRY FAZEKAS, ACCOMPANIED BY COUNSEL, MARY M. KAUFMAN

Mr. ARENS. Kindly be seated, sir.

Please identify yourself, by name, residence and occupation.

Mr. FAZEKAS. My name is Frank Henry Fazekas, F-a-z-e-k-a-s. It has been misspelled on my subpoena.

I live at 38 Columbia Court, Bridgeport, Conn.

Mr. ARENS. And your occupation?

Mr. FAZEKAS. My occupation at the present time is extruding. Officially they call it extruder.

Mr. ARENS. Where is that?

Mr. FAZEKAS. In the Bridgeport General Electric.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Fazekas, are you appearing today in response to a subpoena served upon you by the House Committee on Un-American Activities?

Mr. FAZEKAS. I said that.

Mr. ARENS. Are you represented by counsel?

Mr. FAZEKAS. I am.

Mr. ARENS. Will counsel kindly identify herself?

Miss KAUFMAN. Mary M. Kaufman, 201 West 85th Street, New York City.

Mr. ARENS. Where and when were you born?

Mr. FAZEKAS. I was born in Duquesne, Pa., October 10, 1908.

Mr. ARENS. And a word, if you please, sir, about your early education.

Mr. FAZEKAS. I went through grammar school in Duquesne, Pa., and 2 years of high school.

Mr. ARENS. When did you complete your work in the high school the 2 years?

Mr. FAZEKAS. Sophomore. I went through the sophomore year.

Mr. ARENS. What year was that?

Mr. FAZEKAS. Oh, I don't know. If I started school when I was 6 years old, it takes 8 years to get through grade school.

Mr. ARENS. That was probably in the twenties?

Mr. FAZEKAS. If you figure it out, 6 and 8 and 2, it's 16, I guess.

Mr. ARENS. Pick up there and give us a thumbnail sketch of your principal employments after you completed high school.

Mr. FAZEKAS. Well, after I finished the second year of high school I went to work for the Carnegie Steel Co.

Mr. ARENS. In what capacity?

Mr. FAZEKAS. As a, what they call a puller boy, for 24½ cents an hour.

Mr. ARENS. How long did you have that job?

Mr. FAZEKAS. I had that job until they had a policy that you had to be 19 years old or something to get into the men's labor class, or what you want to call it. So I worked, naturally then, for approximately 3 years on that job.

Mr. ARENS. And then your next employment?

Mr. FAZEKAS. I didn't finish there. I mean I didn't finish. I kept on working for Carnegie Steel. After being puller boy, I got of age and went on.

Mr. ARENS. How long did you work for Carnegie Steel?

Mr. FAZEKAS. It's so long ago. Approximately 4, 4½ years.

Mr. ARENS. And then your next employment?

Mr. FAZEKAS. The next employment. I came up here for a vacation, seeing some relatives. And because of not wanting to be a laborer all my life, I came up here on vacation and applied for a job in GE.

Mr. ARENS. Do you recall when that was? Would that be about June of 1929?

Mr. FAZEKAS. Something like that.

Mr. ARENS. Let me lay before you now a photostatic copy of an application for employment with General Electric Co., dated June 1929, and ask you if you recognize that as a true and correct representation of the application which you signed for employment with General Electric in June of 1929.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. ARENS. Is that your signature appearing at the bottom of the document, on the last line?

Mr. FAZEKAS. I don't have any objection.

Mr. ARENS. Is that your signature?

Mr. FAZEKAS. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. Did you, pursuant to this application, secure employment at General Electric?

Mr. FAZEKAS. Oh, yes.

Mr. ARENS. How long did you hold that job?

Mr. FAZEKAS. Oh, I didn't work too long.

Mr. ARENS. What is your best recollection as to the period of time?

Mr. FAZEKAS. Roughly, I might have worked there 6 or 7 months. I don't know exactly. Then I went back home.

Mr. ARENS. Did you subsequently return to the Bridgeport area?

Mr. FAZEKAS. It was really rough times, those times. It was hard to get jobs. I relied on my trade as an electrician and knocked around and finally found, through my brother—because my brother came up with me at the time I came to Bridgeport—that things were picking up. So I came back here.

Mr. ARENS. What year was that, please, sir?

Mr. FAZEKAS. That was in August 1930.

Mr. ARENS. Then did you reassociate yourself with General Electric?

Mr. FAZEKAS. Oh, yes.

Mr. ARENS. How long were you with General Electric?

Mr. FAZEKAS. I have been with General Electric ever since, to the present day.

Mr. ARENS. During the course of your employment at General Electric were you affiliated with a labor organization?

Mr. FAZEKAS. Yes; I was affiliated. I am a charter member of the union when it first started in 1935 or 1936.

Mr. ARENS. Was Mr. Arsenault, who preceded you on the witness stand, one of your associates in the labor organization?

Mr. FAZEKAS. Yes. He was president of the union.

I also was elected as the treasurer for that union.

Mr. ARENS. How long did you serve as treasurer?

Mr. FAZEKAS. I served for approximately 7 years as treasurer. In fact, it's more, because after I was treasurer I finished the term of the business agent that we had at that time. So I was treasurer and business agent.

I don't know exactly what year. I think it was 1942.

Mr. ARENS. Was that period of your service, as an officer of Local 203, about the same period of time when Arsenault was president?

Mr. FAZEKAS. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. Who were some of the other officers?

Mr. FAZEKAS. Oh, now look.

Mr. ARENS. If you do not recall, may I ask you this—

Mr. FAZEKAS. I want to talk to my counsel.

Mr. ARENS. Did you know Arsenault all the time you were treasurer and he was president?

Mr. FAZEKAS. I want to talk to my counsel.

Mr. ARENS. Surely. Go ahead.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Miss KAUFMAN. What is the pending question?

Mr. FAZEKAS. What is the pending question?

Mr. ARENS. I thought we had an answer to it. You just wanted to consult with counsel.

Miss KAUFMAN. The pending question has been answered?

Mr. ARENS. Yes.

Mr. FAZEKAS. What question did you say?

Mr. ARENS. Whether or not you and Arsenault served during the same period of time in your official capacities with the union.

Mr. FAZEKAS. Yes, but you had another question.

Mr. ARENS. Tell us any other organizations with which you and Arsenault likewise were affiliated.

Mr. FAZEKAS. Will you repeat that question again?

Mr. ARENS. You have told us that you and Arsenault were officers together in the local of General Electric. Now I am asking you if you and Arsenault were together in any other organizations.

Mr. FAZEKAS. Look. I would like to decline to answer that on the basis of the first and fifth amendments.

Mr. ARENS. Were you ever disassociated from the labor organization, Local 203, Bridgeport?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. FAZEKAS. Yes; I was disassociated with them.

Mr. ARENS. What happened?

Mr. FAZEKAS. I was expelled from the union.

Mr. ARENS. As what? You started to say, and I did not quite follow you.

Mr. FAZEKAS. I said I was expelled as a member from the union.

Mr. ARENS. Why?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. FAZEKAS. I don't recall any reasons why I was expelled from the union.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. ARENS. Did you ever live at 38 Columbia Street?

Mr. FAZEKAS. No; not Columbia Street. Columbia Court.

Mr. ARENS. Columbia Court?

Mr. FAZEKAS. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. Was that an apartment building?

Mr. FAZEKAS. It's a tenement house.

Mr. ARENS. Do you recall in what ward in Bridgeport that is located?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. FAZEKAS. What was that question again?

Mr. ARENS. What ward was that in? Do you recall?

Mr. FAZEKAS. That was the second ward.

Mr. ARENS. You, a few moments ago, identified this signature, Frank Henry Fazekas, on an application for employment at the General Electric Co. I would like to lay before you another document in which there appears the name Frank Fazekas, 38 Columbia Court,

Ward 2. Can you identify that signature as the signature of yourself?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. FAZEKAS. I want to decline to answer that on the basis of the first and fifth amendments.

Mr. ARENS. Now this signature is on a document entitled "Nominating Petition for November 1946 Elections," under the title and designation of "Communist Party."

Did you sign a petition for the Communist Party in 1946?

Mr. FAZEKAS. I stated I stand on my first and fifth amendments.

Mr. KEARNEY. At the time you were expelled from the union were you expelled for the reason that you were a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. FAZEKAS. To my knowledge, there was no stated reason.

Mr. KEARNEY. Were you a member of the Communist Party at that time?

Mr. FAZEKAS. I decline to answer on the first and fifth amendments.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Fazekas, are you presently a member of a labor organization?

Mr. FAZEKAS. I am not.

Mr. ARENS. Do you know a person by the name of W. C. Mosher?

Mr. FAZEKAS. I decline for the same stated reasons that I stated before.

Mr. ARENS. Are you presently a member of the Communist conspiracy?

Mr. FAZEKAS. I still maintain my position—the first and fifth amendments.

Mr. ARENS. Do you know a person by the name of Harold Kent?

Mr. FAZEKAS. I decline to answer on the first and fifth amendments.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Kent, would you kindly stand?

Look over your right shoulder Mr. Fazekas. This man testified here this morning, placed his liberty on the line, and said, in effect, that he knew you as a member of the Communist Party.

While you are under oath, tell this committee was Mr. Kent lying or was he telling the truth.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. FAZEKAS. Look. You state that he is protecting his liberty. I am telling you that I am staking my job in trying to protect the Constitution.

Mr. ARENS. Are you a member of an organization dedicated to the destruction of the Constitution?

Mr. FAZEKAS. I stand on the first and fifth amendments.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Kent stated you recruited him into the Communist Party. Was he lying or was he telling the truth?

Mr. FAZEKAS. I will stand on the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Do you know a person by the name of Rowena Paumi?

Mr. FAZEKAS. The same answer.

Mr. ARENS. Miss Paumi, will you kindly stand?

Look over your right shoulder, Mr. Fazekas.

Now this lady has told this committee that she knew you as a member of the Communist conspiracy.

While you are under oath, tell the committee was Miss Paumi lying or was she telling the truth.

Mr. FAZEKAS. I stand on my fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Do you honestly apprehend that, if you told the committee whether or not Rowena Paumi and Harold Kent were telling the truth when they identified you as a member of the Communist conspiracy, you would be supplying information which might be used against you in a criminal proceeding?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. FAZEKAS. What was that question again?

Mr. ARENS. Do you honestly fear that, if you told this committee while you are under oath whether or not Rowena Paumi and Harold Kent were telling the truth when they identified you as a member of the Communist conspiracy, you would be supplying information which might be used against you in a criminal proceeding?

Mr. FAZEKAS. All I can say is this: that I have been a charter member of that union and I know what it was to organize a union. I know very definitely many people were fired because of people talking, you know, and informing on people.

Mr. ARENS. About what?

Mr. FAZEKAS. Informing that they were members of the union and all of that.

I positively can't be associated and I won't associate myself of being an informer, and on that basis—

Mr. ARENS. Would you tell this committee while you are under oath whether or not Kent lied and whether or not Miss Paumi lied when they told this committee they knew you as a member of the Communist Party?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. FAZEKAS. On the previous question that you asked, I also want to include the fifth amendment on that.

Mr. ARENS. All right.

Mr. FAZEKAS. Your second question?

Mr. ARENS. Did Kent and Miss Paumi lie when they said they knew you as a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. FAZEKAS. I stand on the fifth amendment.

Mr. KEARNEY. Did I understand you correctly a few minutes ago to say that you knew of people being fired from jobs when they stated they were members of a union?

Mr. FAZEKAS. People informed; yes.

Mr. KEARNEY. Or was it because they were members of the Communist Party?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. FAZEKAS. It was because they were joining a union.

Mr. KEARNEY. Do you mean to sit there and tell me that employers fire men because they belong to a labor union?

Mr. FAZEKAS. At that time.

Mr. KEARNEY. What year was that?

Mr. FAZEKAS. 1936-37. I took up many grievances on that, of threats and violence.

Mr. KEARNEY. How many members did you have in your union at that time?

Mr. FAZEKAS. At that time, in 1937?

Mr. KEARNEY. Yes.

Mr. FAZEKAS. I don't know exactly how many. We went through an election in 1937 by the National Labor Relations Board, and won the majority vote in that plant on June 4 of 1937. We won the majority vote, and that consisted of approximately five thousand two hundred-some people that were actually in that election, involved in that election.

Mr. KEARNEY. Were all of those people fired because they were members of the union?

Mr. FAZEKAS. We had the protection of the National Labor Relations Board at that time.

Mr. KEARNEY. Prior to the protection that you had with the National Labor Relations Board was every member of the union that you belong to fired because he belonged to that union?

Mr. FAZEKAS. No.

Mr. KEARNEY. You are a little off balance on your statement then, are you not?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. FAZEKAS. I think you must know of the La Follette committee about those times, in their reports on labor, spying and all that.

Mr. KEARNEY. I would like to inform the witness that in 1937 I was not even a Member of the Congress.

Mr. ARENS. Did you ever file a non-Communist affidavit pursuant to the National Labor Relations Act?

Mr. FAZEKAS. What was that question?

Mr. ARENS. Did you ever file a non-Communist affidavit pursuant to the provisions of the National Labor Relations Act?

Mr. FAZEKAS. The National Labor Relations Act?

Miss KAUFMAN. You mean the Taft-Hartley law?

Mr. ARENS. Yes.

Mr. FAZEKAS. Why don't you say that?

Mr. ARENS. Did you ever file a non-Communist affidavit in accordance with that law?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. FAZEKAS. I never did. I didn't have to; there was no reason.

Mr. ARENS. Have you ever been a member of a citywide organization in Bridgeport?

Mr. FAZEKAS. What do you mean, citywide?

Mr. ARENS. Well, can you not tax your memory a little bit and tell us whether or not in 1953 you were a member of a committee, citywide committee of any organization in Bridgeport?

Mr. FAZEKAS. Do you have any special one in mind?

Mr. ARENS. Yes. The City Committee of the Communist Party.

Mr. FAZEKAS. I decline on the basis of the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Kent said that you were chairman of the City Committee.

Mr. FAZEKAS. I decline on the basis of the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Was he lying or was he telling the truth?

Mr. FAZEKAS. I decline on the basis of the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. For what publications have you been a business agent?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. FAZEKAS. The question, I would like to have again.

Mr. ARENS. Have you ever conducted a campaign for any publication that has been circulated in the State of Connecticut?

Mr. FAZEKAS. Have I conducted a campaign?

Mr. ARENS. Yes, sir.

Miss KAUFMAN. That is a different question.

Mr. ARENS. Have you ever had a connection with a publication circulating in the State of Connecticut?

Mr. FAZEKAS. Well, as a business agent, I was editor of the union paper. We had a local union paper.

Mr. ARENS. What was the circulation?

Mr. FAZEKAS. The circulation was, the paper was sent to every member of the local.

Mr. ARENS. How many were there at that time?

Mr. FAZEKAS. Oh, I don't know.

Mr. ARENS. Was it up around 6,000?

Mr. FAZEKAS. It must be somewhere around there.

Mr. ARENS. Did you have any connection with the March of Labor?

Mr. FAZEKAS. Did I have any connection with the March of Labor?

Mr. ARENS. Yes, sir.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. FAZEKAS. I decline to answer that on the basis of the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Do you honestly apprehend that, if you told this committee whether you had any connection with the March of Labor, you would be supplying information which might be used against you in a criminal proceeding?

Mr. FAZEKAS. I decline to answer.

Mr. ARENS. I suggest that the witness be directed to answer.

Mr. KEARNEY. As a matter of fact, you were a State director for the March of Labor.

Mr. FAZEKAS. I decline to answer that—fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Was that a Communist publication?

Mr. FAZEKAS. I decline to answer—fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. How many people did you recruit into Local 203 when you were in it?

Mr. FAZEKAS. You mean members?

Mr. ARENS. Yes.

Mr. FAZEKAS. I can't remember how many.

Mr. ARENS. Was it several?

Mr. FAZEKAS. You mean members of the union?

Mr. ARENS. Yes.

Mr. FAZEKAS. I have recruited plenty.

Mr. ARENS. Would you say several hundred people?

Mr. FAZEKAS. I could say I had plenty to do with a hundred.

Mr. ARENS. Would you say you recruited into the local as many as a thousand?

Mr. FAZEKAS. I don't want to——

Mr. ARENS. We do not want you to brag.

Mr. FAZEKAS. I don't know how many I recruited.

Mr. ARENS. Now tell us into what other organization you recruited members besides the local.

Mr. FAZEKAS. I don't want to answer that on the basis of the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, I respectfully suggest that that will conclude the staff interrogation of this witness.

Mr. WILLIS. Any questions?

Mr. KEARNEY. No questions.

Mr. WILLIS. The witness will be excused.

We will take a short recess.

(Whereupon, a brief recess was taken, there being present at the time of taking the recess Representatives Willis and Kearney.)

Mr. WILLIS. The subcommittee will please come to order.

Counsel will call the next witness, please.

Mr. ARENS. William P-i-s-t-e-y.

Please come forward.

Kindly remain standing while the chairman administers an oath to you.

Mr. WILLIS. Will you raise your right hand.

Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you, God?

Mr. PISTEY. I do.

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM PISTEY, ACCOMPANIED BY COUNSEL, MARY M. KAUFMAN

Mr. ARENS. Please be seated.

Kindly identify yourself by name, residence and occupation.

Miss KAUFMAN. My client informs me that he would prefer not to be televised.

Mr. ARENS. Kindly identify yourself by name, residence, and occupation?

Mr. PISTEY. William Pistey, P-i-s-t-e-y.

Mr. ARENS. Your residence, please.

Mr. PISTEY. 389 Parkway Drive, Stratford, Conn.

Mr. ARENS. Your occupation, please.

Mr. PISTEY. Sheet-metal worker.

Mr. ARENS. Where?

Mr. PISTEY. General Electric.

Mr. ARENS. Are you appearing today in response to a subpoena served upon you by the House Committee on Un-American Activities?

Mr. PISTEY. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. Are you represented by counsel?

Mr. PISTEY. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. Counsel, kindly identify yourself for this record, please.

Miss KAUFMAN. Mary M. Kaufman, 201 West 85th Street, New York, N. Y.

Mr. ARENS. Where and when were you born, Mr. Pistey?

Mr. PISTEY. August 31, 1909, in Bridgeport, Conn.

Mr. ARENS. Give us a thumbnail sketch, please, sir, of your education.

Mr. PISTEY. I went to grammar school for 7½ years, in State trade school for 1½ years.

Mr. ARENS. When did you complete your formal education?

Mr. PISTEY. In the trade school?

Mr. ARENS. Yes, sir.

Mr. PISTEY. About 1926.

Mr. ARENS. Have you had other specialized training or other specialized courses since completion of your work at the State trade school?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. PISTEY. What do you mean by specialized?

Mr. ARENS. Tell us of any training that you have had since you completed your State trade schooling.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. PISTEY. I have no other training.

Mr. ARENS. Have you taken any other courses since you completed your State trade school work?

Mr. PISTEY. No.

Mr. ARENS. Now give us, if you please, sir, a brief sketch of the employment you have had since completion of your formal education.

Mr. PISTEY. Well, after I left trade school I went to work for local contractors. That is small contractors: Bridgeport Furnace Works. I worked there for maybe a year or so. Then I went to work for a plumbing and heating contractor by the name of Al Menard.

Mr. ARENS. Where was that?

Mr. PISTEY. Bridgeport, Conn.

Mr. ARENS. How long did you work there?

Mr. PISTEY. I should say approximately 5 or 6 years. I don't know definitely.

Mr. ARENS. Then your next employment?

Mr. PISTEY. Then I was unemployed in 1931, and I had no regular employment. I worked for various contractors here and there; short periods of, say, maybe a few weeks or a month. I was unemployed most of the time till I worked at the Bridgeport Brass Co. for a couple of years.

I would say possibly around 1934 to 1936 somewhere, about 2½ years at the Bridgeport Brass Co. in Bridgeport, Conn.

Mr. ARENS. Then your next employment?

Mr. PISTEY. A short period at Sikorsky Aircraft. They were in Stratford then.

Mr. ARENS. What did you do at Sikorsky?

Mr. PISTEY. Sheet metal.

Mr. ARENS. Was that in 1937?

Mr. PISTEY. Around 1936 or 1937. I don't remember the dates.

Mr. ARENS. Then your next employment, sir?

Mr. PISTEY. I went to work at the General Electric in 1937 to 1938, and I was laid off due to lack of work.

Mr. ARENS. Your next employment?

Mr. PISTEY. When I was laid off I went on public relief for a short time, and I was on PWA.

Mr. ARENS. Your next employment?

Mr. PISTEY. Then I went back to work for the first concern I worked for. That was the Bridgeport Furnace Works; for about 2½ years. I believe that was 1939, in the sheet-metal work. I was installing air conditioning.

Then, in 1942, I went to work for the General Electric Co., and I have worked since. That is over 14 years now.

Mr. ARENS. Are you presently a member of a labor organization?

Mr. PISTEY. I am a member of IUE.

Mr. ARENS. How long have you been a member of International Union of Electrical Workers?

Mr. PISTEY. Approximately since they won the election in Bridgeport.

Mr. ARENS. When was that, please, sir? Your best recollection.

Mr. PISTEY. I would say a few years ago. I don't recollect dates.

Mr. ARENS. Have you held any office in IUE?

Mr. PISTEY. No.

Mr. ARENS. Were you in any other labor organization prior to your present affiliation with IUE?

Mr. PISTEY. The UE; United Electrical.

Mr. ARENS. What period of time were you identified with United Electrical?

Mr. PISTEY. Since I have been employed till they lost the election.

Mr. ARENS. Have you held any post or office in UE?

Mr. PISTEY. No.

Mr. ARENS. Is there any other labor organization with which you have been affiliated?

Mr. PISTEY. No.

Mr. ARENS. Do you know a man by the name of Frank Fazekas? (The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. PISTEY. I decline to answer that on the grounds of the first and fifth amendments.

Mr. ARENS. Do you know a person by the name of Oliver Arsenault?

Mr. PISTEY. I decline for the same reasons.

Mr. ARENS. Have you ever had any business dealings with a law firm in New York City?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. PISTEY. Sir, what is the relevance of that to this kind of inquiry?

Mr. ARENS. I respectfully ask you to answer that question.

What business dealings have you had, if any, with a law firm in New York City?

Miss KAUFMAN. The witness has raised a question of relevance.

Mr. ARENS. This committee has rules of which you have been advised, and we have been heckled by experts and we do not expect to be heckled by you today.

Tell us whether or not you have had business dealings with a law firm in New York City?

Mr. PISTEY. I would like to confer with my counsel.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. PISTEY. I would like the ruling on this, the relevancy of the inquiry.

Mr. ARENS. When did you first meet your counsel who appears today with you?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. PISTEY. I would like to ask the chairman what relevance.

Mr. ARENS. The relevance—I say this for the record—is that this committee has under consideration legislation dealing with certain persons who appear in hearings before this committee.

I, therefore, ask you now to tell us when you first met your counsel who appears with you today.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

MISS KAUFMAN. May I suggest the witness is unable to cope with the problem.

MR. ARENS. Mr. Pistey, please answer the question.

When did you first meet your counsel who appears before us today?

MISS KAUFMAN. I would like to say, Mr. Chairman——

MR. ARENS. Madam, we have been heckled by experts.

You have appeared before, of course, representing other witnesses who have been identified as Communists.

We do not propose to let you take over this hearing.

MR. PISTEY, please answer this question: When did you first meet your counsel who appears before us today?

MR. WILLIS. The witness will answer the question.

MR. PISTEY. I would like advice of counsel, please.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

MR. PISTEY. I met my counsel the first time Sunday.

MR. ARENS. Did you initiate the arrangements between yourself and your counsel, or were those arrangements initiated by some other person?

MR. PISTEY. I would like to confer with my counsel.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

MISS KAUFMAN. Mr. Chairman, since this affects me individually——

MR. ARENS. Counsel, in a few moments, if you would like to be interrogated, we will swear you in.

Now, Mr. Pistey, tell this committee whether or not the arrangements between you and your counsel were initiated by yourself or by some other person.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

MR. PISTEY. I decline to answer that on the grounds of the first and fifth amendments.

MR. ARENS. Was your counsel secured for you by a person who, to your certain knowledge, is a member of the Communist conspiracy?

MR. PISTEY. I decline for the same reasons I have stated.

MR. ARENS. Do you honestly apprehend, then, that if you told this committee truthfully whether or not your counsel was lined up for you by a person who is a member of the Communist conspiracy, that you would be supplying information which might be used against you in a criminal proceeding?

MISS KAUFMAN. I would like to take exception to the remarks of counsel.

MR. ARENS. If counsel wants to testify before the committee, I suggest that the counsel raise her right hand and be sworn, and we will interrogate her.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

MR. PISTEY. Under the present conditions my answer is "Yes."

MR. ARENS. Your answer is "Yes," that you truthfully apprehend that if you told this committee whether or not your counsel was engaged for you by a member of the Communist conspiracy you would be supplying information which could be used against you in a criminal proceeding.

Did you have any consultation with Mr. Fazekas in anticipation of the engagement of your counsel today?

MR. PISTEY. I refuse to answer on the grounds of the first and fifth.

Mr. ARENS. Did you have any consultation with Mr. Arsenault in anticipation of the engagement of your counsel today?

Mr. PISTEY. I refuse to answer for the same reason.

Mr. ARENS. Do you know a person by the name of Sam Richter?

Mr. PISTEY. I refuse for the same reasons I have stated.

Mr. ARENS. State them again.

Mr. PISTEY. I refuse to answer on the grounds of the first and fifth amendments.

Mr. ARENS. Do you honestly apprehend that if you told this committee whether or not you even know Sam Richter, you would be supplying information which could be used against you in a criminal proceeding?

Mr. PISTEY. May I confer with counsel.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Miss KAUFMAN. May we have that question, counsel, reread.

(The pending question was read by the reporter.)

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. PISTEY. Under the present conditions the answer is "Yes."

Mr. ARENS. Have you been instructed as to the nature of the answers you are to give to this committee by any person who, to your certain knowledge, is a member of the Communist conspiracy?

Mr. PISTEY. I refuse to answer on the grounds of the first and fifth amendments.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. ARENS. Do you know a person by the name of Rowena Paumi?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. PISTEY. I refuse to answer on the grounds of the first and fifth amendments.

Mr. ARENS. Do you know a person by the name of Harold Kent?

Mr. PISTEY. I refuse to answer on the grounds of the first and fifth amendments.

Mr. ARENS. Miss Paumi and Mr. Kent, would you kindly come forward a moment.

Mr. PISTEY, take a look at these two people. Tell this committee whether you have ever seen either of them before.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. PISTEY. What is that question?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. PISTEY. I refuse to answer on the grounds of the first and fifth amendments.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. PisteY, Mr. Kent testified under oath before this committee and subjected himself to the pains and penalties of perjury. He said that he knew you as a member of the Communist conspiracy.

Was he lying or was he telling the truth?

Mr. PISTEY. I would like to confer with counsel.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. PISTEY. I refuse on the grounds of the first and fifth amendments.

Mr. ARENS. Miss Paumi has told this committee that she, too, knew you as a member of the Communist conspiracy. Is that lady standing there one who lied or did she tell the truth?

Mr. PISTEY. I refuse to answer on the grounds of the first and fifth amendments.

Mr. ARENS. Thank you, Mr. Kent and Miss Paumi.

Are you presently, in your work at the General Electric Co., under the discipline of the Communist conspiracy?

Mr. PISTEX. I refuse to answer on the grounds of the first and fifth amendments.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, I respectfully suggest that would conclude the staff interrogation of this witness.

Mr. WILLIS. No questions.

The witness is excused.

Counsel will call the next witness.

Mr. ARENS. The next witness, if you please, Mr. Chairman, was supposed to be one Mattie Sykes.

We have received representations from an attorney representing Mattie Sykes that she is confined to a hospital in Bridgeport with an illness and will be unable to appear.

I respectfully suggest that, on the basis of that representation, which has been supplemented by a telephone conversation, that Mattie Sykes for the period of time at least of these hearings in New Haven, be temporarily excused from appearing.

Mr. WILLIS. It will be so ordered.

Mr. ARENS. The next witness, if the chairman please, will be Mr. Milton Weinberg.

Please remain standing, Mr. Weinberg, while the chairman administers an oath to you.

Mr. WILLIS. Raise your right hand, please.

Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you, God?

Mr. WEINBERG. I do.

TESTIMONY OF MILTON WEINBERG, ACCOMPANIED BY COUNSEL, RALPH LOCKWOOD

Mr. ARENS. Have a seat, please, sir, and kindly identify yourself by name, residence, and occupation.

Mr. WEINBERG. Milton Weinberg, 355 Trumbull Avenue, Bridgeport, Conn.; occupation, machinist.

Mr. ARENS. And where?

Mr. WEINBERG. I refuse to answer that question on the grounds of the protection afforded me by the fifth amendment of the Constitution.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, I respectfully suggest that, first, counsel advise his client on that subject because we do not want to take unfair advantage of him, and that, then, the chairman direct him to answer.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. WEINBERG. I am presently employed by the AVCO Corp., Stratford, Conn.

Mr. ARENS. I did not get the name.

Mr. WEINBERG. The AVCO Corp.

Mr. ARENS. Are you appearing today in response to a subpoena served upon you by the House Committee on Un-American Activities?

Mr. WEINBERG. That is correct.

Mr. ARENS. And you are represented by counsel?

Mr. WEINBERG. That is correct.

Mr. ARENS. Will counsel kindly identify himself.

Mr. LOCKWOOD. Ralph Lockwood, 188 Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.

Mr. ARENS. When and where were you born, Mr. Weinberg?

Mr. WEINBERG. I was born in New York City, July 26, 1926.

Mr. ARENS. Have you ever been known by any name other than Milton Weinberg?

Mr. WEINBERG. Not to my knowledge.

Mr. ARENS. Give us, if you please, sir, a brief résumé of your education.

Mr. WEINBERG. My formal education, that is, public schools, which I attended: I went through public school and high school, finished high school and completed my education.

Mr. ARENS. When did you finish high school?

Mr. WEINBERG. Approximately 1942.

Mr. ARENS. Where was that, please, sir?

Mr. WEINBERG. New York City.

Mr. ARENS. All right, sir.

Now have you had any education other than the education which you have heretofore on this record described?

Mr. WEINBERG. What type of education?

Mr. ARENS. Any kind.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. WEINBERG. I decline to answer that question on the basis of the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Where else have you had education beside the education you have heretofore described?

Mr. WEINBERG. I decline to answer that question.

Mr. ARENS. Have you had any specialized training?

Mr. WEINBERG. I decline to answer that question on the basis of the fifth amendment of the Constitution.

Mr. ARENS. Now kindly tell us, please, sir, of your employment activity since you completed the education which you have heretofore described on the record, terminating in 1942, I believe.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. WEINBERG. After I finished high school, shortly afterward—I think it was a matter of months—I went to the United States Navy, volunteered for the Navy during the war.

Mr. ARENS. How long did you serve in the Navy?

Mr. WEINBERG. Approximately 3 years.

Mr. ARENS. Did you receive a commission?

Mr. WEINBERG. No, sir.

Mr. ARENS. In what unit of the Navy did you serve?

Mr. WEINBERG. I think the actual unit was the advance forces unit. Our job was mainly being assigned to advance bases overseas.

Mr. ARENS. In what theater did you serve?

Mr. WEINBERG. I was in both the Atlantic and the Pacific area.

Mr. ARENS. In the course of your service in the Navy did you have access to confidential or restricted information?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. WEINBERG. Not to my knowledge.

Mr. ARENS. During the course of your service in the Navy were you under the discipline or direction of any organization other than the United States Armed Forces?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. WEINBERG. I decline to answer that question on the basis of the first and fifth amendments of the Constitution.

Mr. ARENS. Was your enlistment in the Navy at the behest, suggestion, or direction of any organization other than an official Government agency?

Mr. WEINBERG. I decline to answer for the same reasons. I decline to answer that question for the same reasons.

Mr. ARENS. When did your service in the Navy terminate?

Mr. WEINBERG. 1946, I believe.

Mr. KEARNEY. Are you a member of any veterans' organization?

Mr. WEINBERG. While I was in the service?

Mr. KEARNEY. Now.

Mr. WEINBERG. Am I a member of any veterans' organization at the present time?

Mr. KEARNEY. Yes.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. KEARNEY. Surely that cannot be based upon a refusal to answer on the grounds of the fifth amendment.

Mr. WEINBERG. Well, can I consult with my counsel?

Mr. KEARNEY. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. That is a privilege accorded you by this committee.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. WEINBERG. With the counsel's permission, I would like to read a very short statement.

Mr. ARENS. Just answer the general's question as to whether or not you are a member of the American Legion——

Mr. KEARNEY. Mr. Chairman, I insist on an answer to my question.

Mr. WEINBERG. Will you repeat that question?

Mr. KEARNEY. I asked you if you are a member of any veterans' organization today. It is a very simple question.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. WEINBERG. At the present time I am not a member of any veterans' organization.

Mr. ARENS. Have you ever been a member of a veterans' organization?

Mr. WEINBERG. I decline to answer that question on the basis of the fifth amendment of the Constitution.

Mr. ARENS. I respectfully suggest, Mr. Chairman, that the witness be ordered and directed to answer that question.

Mr. WILLIS. Young man, you are directed to answer the question. But you are making a mistake. However, you have counsel.

I direct you to answer the question, and suggest to you that you might be in contempt if you do not.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. WEINBERG. I would like to state that——

Mr. KEARNEY. Just a minute, Mr. Witness.

Mr. Chairman, if this witness is about to read a statement, I object to it.

Mr. WILLIS. You were directed to answer the last question propounded to you.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. WEINBERG. I am refusing to answer that question not because of the nature of the question as such but because I feel that answering

that and future questions in that field may constitute a link in a chain of questions——

Mr. KEARNEY. Are you reading from that statement?

Mr. WEINBERG. I am referring to it but not reading it.

Mr. KEARNEY. Mr. Chairman, I suggest that that statement be handed to the chairman for the simple reason that the witness is going to answer the questions in his own way by referring to it.

Mr. ARENS. Who prepared this statement which counsel is now handing to the chairman?

Mr. WEINBERG. It was prepared by counsel and myself.

Mr. ARENS. Has any person worked on that statement who, to your certain knowledge, is a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. WEINBERG. Would you repeat the question?

Mr. ARENS. Did anyone work on that statement who, to your certain knowledge, is a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. WEINBERG. I stated, as an answer to the previous question——

Mr. ARENS. Can you tell this committee whether or not any Communist worked on that statement, whether it includes you, your counsel, or anyone else?

Mr. WEINBERG. I stated that the statement was prepared by the counsel and myself.

Mr. ARENS. Now, tell this committee whether or not any Communists worked on that statement.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. WEINBERG. I stand on the basis of the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Now, you were in the Navy until when?

Mr. WEINBERG. 1946.

Mr. ARENS. And then what was your employment after you were out of the Navy?

Mr. WEINBERG. I decline to answer on the basis of the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Where were you employed after you concluded your service in the Navy?

Mr. WEINBERG. I decline to answer on the basis of the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Were you employed in the eastern part of the United States?

Mr. WEINBERG. I decline to answer.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, I respectfully suggest that the witness be ordered and directed to answer that question.

Mr. WILLIS. Yes; you are directed to answer that last question which simply is to the effect whether you were employed in the eastern part of the United States.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. WEINBERG. I decline to answer that question not only on the basis of the fifth amendment, because, as I started to say before, I feel that, though the question on its face may seem very innocent and simple, that I do not wish to be led into a field where there can be possible repercussions. I do not feel that I should——

Mr. ARENS. When did you begin your first employment after you concluded your service in the Navy? When did you begin it?

Mr. WEINBERG. I just stated that I came out of the Navy in 1946.

Mr. ARENS. When did you begin your next employment?

Mr. WEINBERG. I feel any questions regarding my employment are a violation of my rights under the Constitution.

Mr. ARENS. When did you begin your next employment after you concluded your service in the United States Navy?

Mr. WEINBERG. I decline to answer on the basis of the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, I respectfully request that this witness be ordered and directed to answer.

Mr. WEINBERG. Also, I wish to point out that, although the question seems to be innocent and simple, I do not wish to be led into a field—

Mr. ARENS. We will take it the hard way.

You are presently employed by the Lycoming division of AVCO Co., at Bridgeport, are you not?

Mr. WEINBERG. I believe I stated that before.

Mr. ARENS. How long have you been employed there?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. WEINBERG. I wish to invoke my privileges—

Approximately 4½ years.

Mr. ARENS. What was your employment immediately prior to your employment at your present establishment?

Mr. WEINBERG. I decline to answer that on the basis of the first and fifth amendments.

In addition, I wish to state that, although it may seem to be a simple question, I refuse to be led into a field which may have possible incriminating effects.

Mr. ARENS. Is there any period of time between 1946 and the time you began your present employment with the Lycoming division of the AVCO Manufacturing Corp. in which you were engaged in an employment concerning which you could tell this committee without furnishing facts which could be used against you in a criminal proceeding?

Mr. WEINBERG. I feel that, since my employment has always been a matter of public record, since I filed social security, that the counsel, in asking this question, can have no purpose other than to lead me into this field I described, and I am again using the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, I again respectfully ask that the witness be ordered and directed to answer that last principal question.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. WEINBERG. Will you repeat the question, please.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Reporter, read the question, please.

(The pending question was read by the reporter.)

Mr. WEINBERG. No.

Mr. ARENS. Were you continuously from 1946 until you began your present employment engaged in an employment concerning which you cannot tell this committee without furnishing information which could be used against you in a criminal proceeding?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. WEINBERG. I am not certain, but, to play it safe, I am going to invoke the privileges afforded me under the Constitution in the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. I respectfully suggest, Mr. Chairman, the witness be ordered and directed to answer that last principal question.

Mr. WILLIS. Yes, you are directed to answer the question.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. WEINBERG. Would you repeat the question.

Mr. ARENS. The question is simply this, sir: From 1946 until you began your present employment with Lycoming division were you continuously engaged in an employment concerning which, if you told this committee the truth, you would be supplying information which could be used against you in a criminal proceeding.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. WEINBERG. To the best of my recollection and knowledge, the answer is probably, "Yes."

Mr. ARENS. Thank you, sir.

Now do you know a person by the name of Harold Kent?

Mr. WEINBERG. I decline to answer that question on the basis of the fifth amendment of the Constitution.

Mr. ARENS. Do you know a person by the name of Rowena Paumi?

Mr. WEINBERG. Same answer. Fifth amendment. I decline to answer that.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Weinberg, Harold A. Kent testified under oath before this committee that while he was an undercover agent for the FBI in the Communist conspiracy he knew you as a Communist. Was he lying or was he telling the truth?

Mr. WEINBERG. I decline to answer that question on the protection afforded me—

Mr. ARENS. Rowena Paumi—

Mr. WEINBERG. I would like to have, for the record, that I am using the fifth amendment on that question.

Mr. ARENS. Rowena Paumi told this committee that she knew you as a Communist. Was she lying or was she telling the truth?

Mr. WEINBERG. I decline to answer that question on the basis of the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Are you presently a Communist?

Mr. WEINBERG. I decline to answer that question on the basis of the fifth amendment of our Constitution.

Mr. ARENS. Are you presently under Communist Party discipline?

Mr. WEINBERG. I decline to answer that question on the basis of the fifth amendment of our Constitution.

Mr. KEARNEY. If you are not under Communist Party discipline would you so inform us?

Mr. WEINBERG. I decline to answer that question, as well, on the basis of the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Are you a member of an organization dedicated to the destruction of the Constitution of the United States?

Mr. WEINBERG. I decline to answer that question on the basis of the protection afforded me by the fifth amendment of the Constitution.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, I respectfully suggest that that would conclude the staff interrogation of this witness.

Mr. WILLIS. Any questions?

Mr. KEARNEY. No.

Mr. WILLIS. The witness is excused.

The committee will take a 5-minute recess.

(Whereupon, a brief recess was taken, there being present at the time of taking the recess Representatives Willis and Kearney.)

Mr. WILLIS. The committee will please come to order.

Counsel will call the next witness.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Frank Peterson. Kindly come forward.

Mr. Peterson, please remain standing while the chairman administers an oath to you.

Mr. WILLIS. Raise your right hand.

Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. PETERSON. I do.

The television; I would like to have that taken off.

Mr. WILLIS. All right.

**TESTIMONY OF FRANK PETERSON, ACCOMPANIED BY COUNSEL,
CATHERINE G. RORABACK**

Mr. ARENS. Please have a seat.

Kindly identify yourself by name, residence, and occupation.

Mr. PETERSON. My name?

Mr. ARENS. Yes, sir.

Mr. PETERSON. I want to tell you ahead of time that I am a little hard of hearing.

Mr. ARENS. I will keep my voice up.

Mr. PETERSON. I may have to ask you to repeat, and I hope you won't mind.

Mr. ARENS. All right, sir. Please tell us your name.

Mr. PETERSON. Frank Peterson.

Mr. ARENS. And your residence?

Mr. PETERSON. 90 Jennings Avenue, Bridgeport, Conn., United States of America.

Mr. ARENS. Your occupation?

Mr. PETERSON. I am a retired millionaire.

Mr. ARENS. What was your last employment?

Mr. PETERSON. Oh, its about, I would say about 6 years ago.

Mr. ARENS. Where was that, please, sir?

Mr. PETERSON. The last place I worked was in AVCO, Stratford.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Peterson, are you appearing today in response to a subpoena served upon you by the House Committee on Un-American Activities?

Mr. PETERSON. Yes; if I understand you.

Mr. ARENS. And you are represented by counsel?

Mr. PETERSON. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. Will counsel kindly identify herself.

Miss RORABACK. Catherine G. Roraback, 185 Church Street, New Haven, Conn.

Mr. ARENS. How long were you engaged at the AVCO Co., Mr. Peterson?

Mr. PETERSON. 10 weeks.

Mr. ARENS. And in what capacity?

Mr. PETERSON. You will have to come again.

Mr. ARENS. What was the nature of your employment at AVCO Co.?

Mr. PETERSON. Tool grinding.

Mr. ARENS. What was your employment immediately prior to your employment at AVCO?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. PETERSON. Well, I worked up until 1949 in the General Electric.

Mr. ARENS. When did you begin at General Electric?

Mr. PETERSON. In 1942.

Mr. ARENS. And in what capacity did you work at General Electric?

Mr. PETERSON. I worked as a tool grinder.

Mr. ARENS. Were you a member of a labor organization?

Mr. PETERSON. Absolutely; always believed in it.

Mr. ARENS. To what labor organization did you belong?

Mr. PETERSON. UE.

Mr. ARENS. Did you hold an office or post in the UE?

Mr. PETERSON. No. I was just a common ordinary run-of-the-mill worker.

Mr. ARENS. During the time that you were a member of the UE, did you receive orders or directions from any other organization?

Mr. PETERSON. I received orders all right. I received orders from the company to report there at 7 o'clock in the morning and work until 4 o'clock in the afternoon. I was supposed to put in a certain amount of work. That was the orders I was getting at GE.

Mr. ARENS. Did you receive orders from any other organization?

Mr. PETERSON. That is the only organization that disciplined me that I have ever known of—General Electric. To turn out the work. If you wasn't doing that, out you go.

Mr. ARENS. Were you a member of any other organization which disciplined you?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. PETERSON. You will have to excuse me. I can't hear a word that counsel says. I want to get a little information from my counsel.

Mr. ARENS. Go right ahead.

Mr. PETERSON. I want to be excused. I can't talk here because I can't catch what you said.

Mr. ARENS. To be sure that you understand me——

Mr. PETERSON. My hearing isn't good.

Mr. ARENS. Can you hear me now?

Mr. PETERSON. Just about.

Mr. ARENS. All right, sir.

Were you a member or under discipline of any organization other than the labor organization you have told us about?

Mr. PETERSON. I told you I worked with the GE, belonged to the UE, and was under discipline by the company.

Mr. ARENS. Were you under discipline of any other organization at the time you were under the discipline of that company?

You were not. Is that your answer?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. PETERSON. No.

Mr. ARENS. Were you disassociated from the labor organization at GE?

Mr. PETERSON. I can't catch you.

Mr. ARENS. Were you expelled from the labor organization?

Mr. PETERSON. Oh, yes.

Mr. ARENS. When was that?

Mr. PETERSON. That seems like a century ago.

Mr. ARENS. Was that in 1947?

Mr. PETERSON. Well, I wouldn't give you the exact date because I never kept a record of it.

Mr. ARENS. Your sight is all right? You can read all right?

Mr. PETERSON. I was born in this country. I think I can master the English language well enough.

Mr. ARENS. Let me lay before you a photostatic copy of an article appearing in the Sunday Herald of Bridgeport, February 1947, "Commie Fight Linked With National Drive," in which is recited the facts of the expulsion of a number of people from UE Local No. 203, including a Frank Peterson, and I ask if you are the Frank Peterson alluded to in that article.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. PETERSON. Well, I guess that is me.

Mr. ARENS. Thank you, sir.

Now I understood you to say, perhaps facetiously, in one of your opening remarks that you were a retired millionaire.

Mr. PETERSON. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. I would like to invite your attention to a photostatic copy of the Communist Daily Worker of August 19, 1936.

It refers to aid to Spain, and lists a number of contributors who gave money for aid to Spain, including E. Peterson, of Stratford, Conn., who sent a dollar. I ask you if you are the E. Peterson who sent that dollar.

Mr. PETERSON. That is not my name.

Mr. ARENS. F. Peterson.

Mr. PETERSON. That is different.

Mr. ARENS. Look at the article and tell us if you are the F. Peterson who sent a dollar for aid to Spain.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. PETERSON. I don't remember that.

Mr. ARENS. You do not remember whether or not you did?

Mr. PETERSON. No. There are so many things happen that I don't remember.

Mr. KEARNEY. If that is so all you have left is \$999,999?

Mr. PETERSON. I can't hear you.

Mr. ARENS. Do you recall whether or not you signed a petition to free Earl Browder, the then general secretary of the Communist Party, back in 1941?

Mr. PETERSON. Repeat that.

Mr. ARENS. Do you have a recollection of signing a petition to free Earl Browder back in 1941?

Mr. PETERSON. Earl Browder?

Mr. ARENS. Yes.

Mr. PETERSON. What was he?

Mr. ARENS. General secretary for the Communist Party.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. PETERSON. No.

Mr. ARENS. You have no recollection of that?

Mr. PETERSON. No.

Mr. ARENS. Let us test your memory then on a few individuals.

Apparently you are having a little difficulty on events.

Do you know a person by the name of W. C. Mosher?

Mr. PETERSON. Do I know a person by the name of Mosher?

Mr. ARENS. Yes, sir.

Mr. PETERSON. I don't know of anybody by the name of Mosher.

Mr. ARENS. Did you ever know a person by the name of Kent?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. PETERSON. I refuse to answer that on my constitutional rights, on the fifth and first amendments.

Mr. ARENS. Do you know a person by the name of Rowena Paumi?

Mr. PETERSON. I took the same position I took formerly.

Mr. ARENS. Perhaps we can help refresh your recollection. You seem to be having difficulty in remembering.

Mr. Kent and Miss Paumi, would you come forward, please?

Mr. Peterson, look at these two people standing here and tell us whether or not you know them.

Mr. PETERSON. What is that? I can't hear you.

Mr. ARENS. Tell us whether or not you know these people standing here.

Mr. PETERSON. I don't hear what you are saying. You have to talk a little louder.

Mr. ARENS. Look to your right and tell us whether or not you know these people.

Mr. PETERSON. I refuse to answer on the same grounds that I previously stated.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Kent has said that he knew you as a Communist. Was he lying or was he telling the truth?

Mr. PETERSON. I refuse to answer on the same conditions I previously stated.

Mr. ARENS. Miss Paumi said she knew you as a Communist. Was she lying or was she telling the truth?

Mr. PETERSON. Let me hear that again.

Mr. ARENS. The lady also has said she knew you as a Communist, and said you were a Communist, a member of the Communist conspiracy.

Was she lying or was she telling the truth?

Mr. PETERSON. She said that, huh?

Mr. ARENS. Yes.

Mr. PETERSON. Well, I take the same position I previously have taken. I invoke the first and fifth amendments.

Mr. ARENS. Are you now a Communist?

Mr. PETERSON. I am taking the same position that I previously took on that question.

Mr. ARENS. Thank you, Mr. Kent and Miss Paumi.

Are you under Communist discipline at the present time?

Mr. PETERSON. I will have to state the same as I stated before, that I am invoking the fifth and first amendment, giving me the constitutional right to my own political and my own religious views.

Mr. ARENS. Are you a member of an organization dedicated to the destruction of the Constitution of the United States?

Mr. PETERSON. Will you repeat that again.

Mr. ARENS. Are you a member of an organization dedicated to the destruction of the Constitution of the United States?

Mr. PETERSON. Well, I am taking the same position on that that I took previously, that I invoke the fifth and first amendments.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, I respectfully suggest that would conclude the staff interrogation of this witness.

Mr. WILLIS. You are excused, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. KEARNEY. Can you hear that all right?

Mr. PETERSON. No. You have a weak voice.

Mr. KEARNEY. Well, I will say you are an engaging witness.

Mr. WILLIS. The subcommittee will stand adjourned, to reconvene tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock.

(Whereupon, at 4:50 p. m., Monday, September 24, the committee was recessed, to be reconvened at 10 a. m., Tuesday, September 25, 1956, there being present at the time of taking the recess Representatives Willis and Kearney.)

INVESTIGATION OF COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES IN THE NEW HAVEN, CONN., AREA—PART 1

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1956

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES,
New Haven, Conn.

PUBLIC HEARING

A subcommittee of the Committee on Un-American Activities met at 10 a. m., pursuant to recess, in the United States Courthouse, New Haven, Conn., Hon. Edwin E. Willis (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Committee members present: Representatives Edwin E. Willis of Louisiana, and Bernard W. Kearney of New York.

Present also: Representative Albert W. Cretella of Connecticut.

Staff members present: Richard Arens, director; Raymond T. Collins, investigator.

Mr. WILLIS. The subcommittee will come to order.

Counsel will call the first witness.

Mr. ARENS. Saul Kreas.

Please come forward.

Kindly remain standing while the chairman administers an oath to you, sir.

Mr. WILLIS. Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you, God?

Mr. KREAS. I do.

TESTIMONY OF SAUL KREAS, ACCOMPANIED BY COUNSEL, ALFRED M. BINGHAM

Mr. ARENS. Kindly be seated.

Mr. KREAS. May I request that while I'm testifying that no photographs be taken.

Mr. ARENS. Please identify yourself by name, residence, and occupation.

Mr. KREAS. My name is Saul Kreas, and my residence is 279 Bassett Street, and my occupation is that I am the business agent of the painters union.

Mr. ARENS. Would you spell your name for us. We have a little conflict in spelling here.

Mr. KREAS. My first name is Saul, S-a-u-l, and the second name is K-r-e-a-s.

Mr. ARENS. Are you appearing today, Mr. Kreas, in response to a subpoena which was served upon you by the House Committee on Un-American Activities?

Mr. KREAS. That is right.

Mr. ARENS. Would you kindly keep your voice up, Mr. Kreas, so that the gentlemen of the committee can hear you.

Mr. KREAS. I shall do that.

Mr. ARENS. Are you represented by counsel?

Mr. KREAS. I am.

Mr. ARENS. Will counsel kindly identify himself?

Mr. BINGHAM. Alfred M. Bingham. My office is 10 Shatucket, Norwich, Conn.

Mr. ARENS. Have you ever been known by any name other than Saul Kreas?

Mr. KREAS. When I came to this country my name was Sholem Krasnogorsky. And when I registered myself in the evening high school in Philadelphia, the high-school teacher suggested that I change my name to Saul Kreas to make it shorter.

Mr. ARENS. Have you had any name other than Saul Kreas and the name you have just told us?

Mr. KREAS. Yes.

I had a name—Brunin.

Mr. ARENS. What was that name?

Mr. KREAS. That name came as a result when I left the old country to come here, I left there a girl—girl friend—whose name was Brunin. During the war she got killed. When I learned, of course, I was very hurt about it, and I took my name in her memory.

Mr. ARENS. Where were you born, Mr. Kreas, and when?

Mr. KREAS. I was born February 3, 1894, in Ukraine, in a city by the name Yashin.

Mr. ARENS. When did you come to the United States?

Mr. KREAS. I came to the United States in April 1914.

Mr. ARENS. Are you presently a citizen of the United States?

Mr. KREAS. I am.

Mr. ARENS. By what device are you a citizen? By naturalization or derivative citizenship from your father?

Mr. KREAS. Naturalization.

Mr. ARENS. When were you naturalized?

Mr. KREAS. In 1928, in New Haven.

Mr. ARENS. How old were you when you came to the United States?

Mr. KREAS. I think it was about 20 years.

Mr. ARENS. Did you have any education in the United States?

Mr. KREAS. In the United States my education was only that I attended, in Philadelphia, the first year. It was a philanthropic Jewish school especially for aliens. And then I started to attend a night school in Philadelphia which was there.

Mr. ARENS. Did that complete your formal education?

Mr. KREAS. In the United States, correct.

Mr. ARENS. Now you are presently employed as organizer for a painters' union?

Mr. KREAS. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. How long have you held that position?

Mr. KREAS. Since 1943; May 1943.

Mr. ARENS. What is the painters' union of which you are an organizer?

Mr. KREAS. It is a union of the painters in New Haven, which is a local of the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators, and Paperhangers of America, of the A. F. of L.

Mr. ARENS. What is the designation of the local? What number?

Mr. KREAS. 186.

Mr. ARENS. Who is your immediate superior?

Mr. KREAS. My immediate superior is the executive board of our organization.

Mr. ARENS. Are you the only organizer for the painters' union?

Mr. KREAS. Yes; I am the only paid officer.

Mr. ARENS. What was your employment immediately prior to 1943 when you became associated with the painters' union?

Mr. KREAS. I was a paperhanger.

Mr. ARENS. You were a paperhanger?

Mr. KREAS. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. Was that employment of yours as an individual or did you work with a firm?

Mr. KREAS. The nature of paperhanging here in New Haven is so that no employer could fully employ a paperhanger all year round. By necessity, a paperhanger works for quite a few employers during the year.

Mr. ARENS. How long were you a paperhanger?

Mr. KREAS. I am a paperhanger since 1915.

Mr. ARENS. Were you a paperhanger in New Haven from 1915 until 1943, or did you have any other principal occupation?

Mr. KREAS. I was not in New Haven in 1915. I came to New Haven in 1925.

Mr. ARENS. Were you a paperhanger in New Haven from 1925 consistently up until 1943?

Mr. KREAS. Correct.

Mr. ARENS. I should like to lay before you, Mr. Kreas, a photostatic copy of a document called Call to the American Continental Congress for Peace, Mexico City, September 5-10, 1949, in which there appear a number of names sponsoring this Call to the American Continental Congress for Peace. Included on the last page as one of the sponsors is a person whose name appears here as Saul K-r-e-a-s.

I ask you to please look at that document and tell us whether or not you are the Saul Kreas whose name appears on that document.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. KREAS. Yes, my name is correct.

Mr. ARENS. Did you sign that document?

Mr. KREAS. I did.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, I respectfully suggest this document be incorporated by reference in the record.

Mr. WILLIS. It will be so ordered.

(The document referred to was marked "Kreas Exhibit No. 1," and filed for the information of the committee.)

Mr. ARENS. Now, Mr. Kreas, I lay before you a copy of the Communist Daily Worker of May 25, 1947, entitled "550 Union Officials Assail Red Hunt" which, by the body of the article, indicates the attack upon the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

Among those who are listed as the sponsors of the assault is one Saul Kreas, K-r-e-a-s, business representative, painters local 186, of New Haven. I ask you whether or not you are that person and if you consciously lent your name to that enterprise.

Mr. KREAS. That is correct. That is my name.

Mr. ARENS. Now I lay before you a document which is a photostatic copy of an open letter to the then Attorney General of the United States with respect to the trial of a number of people under the Smith Act. Appearing in this list is a Saul Kreas, painter, A. F. of L., New York. This was in 1951.

I ask you if that is your name and if you consciously lent your name to that enterprise.

Mr. KREAS. Well, I was never in New York.

Mr. ARENS. Do you have a recollection of that, Mr. Kreas?

Mr. KREAS. I have no recollection, but the name is spelled correct. But I was never in New York affiliated with any local of New York.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Kreas, do you know an individual by the name of Rowena Paumi, P-a-u-m-i?

Mr. KREAS. I don't.

Mr. ARENS. Do you know a person by the name of W. C. Mosher?

Mr. KREAS. I don't.

Mr. ARENS. You do not know him?

Mr. KREAS. No.

Mr. ARENS. Do you know a person by the name of H. W. Mosher?

Mr. KREAS. I don't.

Mr. ARENS. Are you a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. KREAS. No.

Mr. ARENS. Have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. KREAS. I was not a member of the party for a very long time.

Mr. ARENS. Were you ever a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. KREAS. On this question I think I will have to have advice of counsel.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, I respectfully suggest that the witness be ordered and directed to answer that question for this reason: He has advice of counsel here of his own choosing. I asked the witness whether or not he had ever been a member of the Communist Party, and he, in response, came back with "Not for a very long time."

I was trying to clear the record.

He has opened the door for this, and, I believe, has waived his immunity against self-incrimination on that particular question.

Mr. WILLIS. I think so. I think that is fundamentally correct.

The witness is directed to answer the question, having opened the door in that respect.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. KREAS. When I answered the question that I was not for many years it was in answer to the question up to that period. I did not answer the question anything outside of that period.

Mr. ARENS. We don't want to take advantage of you in any respect, Mr. Kreas. I want you to believe that.

Could you tell us when you resigned from the Communist Party or when you were disassociated from the Communist Party?

Mr. KREAS. I did not resign. I didn't have any office, and I didn't have to resign.

I said that it is about 10 years that I am not a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. ARENS. For the last 10 years you have not been a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. KREAS. About.

Mr. ARENS. Over what period of time were you a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. KREAS. On this question I have to consult the counsel again since I stated that I am not a member for the last about 10 years. Now, what happened before that 10 years——

Mr. ARENS. Maybe we can clear the record.

This is 1956. Were you a member of the Communist Party in 1946?

Mr. KREAS. I cannot answer this question exactly because when I said I am not a member of the Communist Party for 10 years I said "about," and I cannot exactly at this time remember the date or the week or month or year, but it is about 10 years.

Mr. ARENS. Were you a member of the Communist Party in 1940?

Mr. KREAS. This question I will have to ask the advice of counsel. (The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. KREAS. Mr. Chairman, may I kindly request you to direct the counsel to withdraw this question since I stated that I am not and I was not a member of the Communist Party for about 10 years. Therefore, anything beyond that period it is the opinion of the counsel that your committee has no right to ask me any of these questions.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Kreas, we have the right to ask the question. You also have a right to invoke the fifth amendment, if you feel that the answer to that question, if truthfully given, might give facts which would tend to incriminate you.

Mr. KREAS. I just stated the advice of my counsel. The advice of counsel is that you have no right to ask me any question beyond the period that I stated, that is, about 10 years.

Mr. ARENS. I respectfully suggest that you confer with your counsel again at the moment so that there is no misunderstanding here.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. KREAS. Am I directed to answer this question?

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Mosher, I want you and your counsel to understand that——

Mr. KREAS. My name is not Mosher.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Kreas, I mean.

You have not invoked the fifth amendment.

Mr. KREAS. I did not answer the question. I am just wanting to establish if I am directed to answer that question.

The advice of counsel is that you have no right to ask me this question.

Mr. KEARNEY. Regardless of what your counsel says on that score, we have the right to go back. He is giving poor advice if that is the advice of your counsel.

Mr. KREAS. I am just asking a question. Am I directed to answer this question?

Mr. ARENS. Do not quibble with us, Mr. Kreas.

I will just ask the question so this record is completely clear.

Have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

Now answer that question, or, if you feel that a truthful answer to that question might be used against you in a criminal proceeding, you have the right to invoke the fifth amendment.

Mr. KREAS. On the basis—what I said before, that since I made a statement here that I am not a member of the Communist Party at present, and I was not a member for a period of about 10 years—I feel that the committee forces me to decline to answer this question under the constitutional protection of the first, the fourth, and fifth amendments.

Mr. ARENS. Now do you honestly feel that, if you gave us a truthful answer to the question as to whether or not you have ever been a member of the Communist Party, that answer would supply information which could be used against you in a criminal proceeding?

Mr. KREAS. I have reasonable fear that, if I should answer this question, it might tend to incriminate me.

Mr. ARENS. Now, Mr. Kreas, were you a member of the Communist Party in 1928 when you were naturalized as a citizen?

Mr. KREAS. The same answer for the same reason.

Mr. ARENS. Is there any period from 1928 until 1946 during which you were not a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. KREAS. The same answer for the same reason.

Mr. ARENS. Are you presently under Communist Party discipline?

Mr. KREAS. This question I answered.

Mr. ARENS. No; you did not.

Mr. KREAS. I said that I am not a member of the Communist Party.

Mr. ARENS. Now tell us whether or not you are presently under Communist Party discipline.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. KREAS. I could only repeat again that I am not a member of the Communist Party, and, therefore, I feel that I am not under the discipline of that party, since I am not a member of the party.

Mr. ARENS. Have you at any time during the period in which you have served as organizer for the painters' union been a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. KREAS. I could answer only for the period that I stated, that I am not a member of the Communist Party.

Mr. ARENS. The dates will speak for themselves in this record.

Did you ever resign from the Communist Party?

Mr. KREAS. No.

Mr. ARENS. I beg your pardon?

Mr. KREAS. I dropped out. I did not resign.

Mr. ARENS. You dropped out of the Communist Party?

Mr. KREAS. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. When did you drop out of the Communist Party?

Mr. KREAS. I answered this question, that it is about 10 years. I don't know exactly the day.

Mr. ARENS. What caused you to drop out of the Communist Party?

Mr. KREAS. I don't remember the causes.

The question of dropping out of the Communist Party: I think it is a question that I want to consult my counsel about.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. KREAS. Mr. Chairman, may I ask a withdrawal of the question, that I misunderstood the question. It was asked in such a way that I really did not understand the question when I withdrew from the party. Now this question was confusing to me, and I did not answer it correctly.

Mr. ARENS. Correct the record now.

When did you drop out of the Communist Party?

Mr. KREAS. I have the same answer: That I am not a member of the Communist Party for about 10 years. Since that time I don't remember, since it is such a long period.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, I respectfully suggest that in the presence of this witness another witness be sworn.

Mr. W. C. Mosher, would you kindly come forward?

Mr. Marshal, could we have a chair over here for just a few moments for Mr. Mosher?

Mr. WILLIS. Will you raise your right hand, please?

Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. MOSHER. I do.

TESTIMONY OF WORDEN C. MOSHER, NEW HAVEN, CONN.

Mr. ARENS. Please identify yourself by name, residence, and occupation.

Mr. MOSHER. Worden C. Mosher, 60 Shelton Terrace; occupation, television.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Mosher, we expect a little later on to interrogate you at length on a number of matters. I wanted, first of all, however, to ask you at this time if you have ever been a member of the Communist Party.

Mr. MOSHER. Yes; I was.

Mr. ARENS. Over what period of time were you a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. MOSHER. From 1939 to 1950.

Mr. ARENS. And were you ever ideologically identified with the Communist Party?

Mr. MOSHER. I was never a Communist myself. I was a member of the Communist Party.

Mr. ARENS. You went into the Communist Party solely and exclusively for the purpose of obtaining information which you subsequently transmitted to the intelligence agencies of our Government. Is that correct?

Mr. MOSHER. That is correct.

Mr. ARENS. During the course of your membership in the Communist Party, did you have occasion to know a person by the name of Saul Kreas, K-r-e-a-s?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes; I did.

Mr. ARENS. Did you know whether or not Saul Kreas was a Communist?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Do you see in the room today the person whom you knew as Saul Kreas, and as a Communist?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes; I do.

Mr. ARENS. The gentleman seated to your left?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. When did you know him as a Communist?

Mr. MOSHER. Well, for a period of 10 years.

Mr. ARENS. What was the nature of the information which led you to conclude and now testify under oath that you knew him as a Communist?

Mr. MOSHER. Well, as dues secretary and also as membership director and many other instances.

Mr. ARENS. Did you ever serve in a closed party meeting with Mr. Kreas?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Did he know you from the standpoint of your own comprehension of someone knowing you?

Mr. MOSHER. He knew me under the name of Mike Spencer.

Mr. ARENS. Now, Mr. Kreas, would you kindly turn to the right and look at the gentleman who has just testified, who has identified himself as Worden C. Mosher, and tell this committee whether or not you have ever known him.

TESTIMONY OF SAUL KREAS—Resumed

Mr. KREAS. I decline to answer this question on the privileges of constitutional rights.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Mosher has just testified on this record that he knew you as a Communist. While you are under oath and while you have an opportunity to confront the man who is talking about you, tell this committee, did Mr. Mosher lie or was he telling the truth when he identified you as a person known by him to be a Communist?

Mr. KREAS. The same answer for the same reason.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, I respectfully suggest that Miss Rowena Paumi be requested to just stand in the back of the courtroom.

Mr. Kreas, would you kindly look over your right shoulder at the lady standing in the back of the courtroom, and tell the committee whether you have ever known her.

Mr. KREAS. I never knew her.

Mr. ARENS. Have you ever been in a Communist Party meeting with her?

Mr. KREAS. Not to my knowledge.

Mr. ARENS. Did you ever know a person by the name of Mike Spencer?

Mr. KREAS. No.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, I respectfully suggest that that would conclude the staff interrogation of Mr. Kreas. And we would like to, please, proceed with the interrogation of Mr. Mosher.

Mr. KEARNEY. I have no questions.

The only observation I would like to make is that we have heard throughout the years the cries of Communists that they are not given the opportunity to face their accusers.

Here, several times, it has happened during the hearings in New Haven, and still they seek refuge behind the fifth amendment.

It is a phony issue as far as we are concerned. That is my point.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, I respectfully suggest that Mr. Kreas be excused now.

Mr. WILLIS. I would like to ask him 1 or 2 specific questions. Mr. Kreas, these questions, I assure you, are not directed with any intent to cross you up. On the contrary, to give you an opportunity to be more specific than you have been.

You say that you have not been a member of the Communist Party for the last 10 years, approximately.

Mr. KREAS. Yes.

Mr. WILLIS. During those 10 years did you attend any Communist Party meetings or functions? During the last 10 years I am talking about.

Mr. KREAS. Well, it could be that I attended some meetings. I attended so many meetings, and if it was a meeting that interested me, if it was an open meeting, it could be that I attended. I won't say yes, I won't say no.

Mr. WILLIS. Well, then that makes it very difficult. If you say that you disassociated yourself from the Communist activities or Communist Party but then you kept on attending meetings, I am wondering what kind of disassociation took place.

Mr. KREAS. I did not say that I kept on attending meetings. What I said was that it could be that sometimes I did attend a meeting to which one maybe I was invited or which was publicly announced. It could be that I attended. I didn't say that I continued attending.

Mr. WILLIS. Let me ask you a specific question again with the idea of being fair to you, because this record is not going to look good for you.

Did you ever attend meetings with this gentleman on your right there—Mr. Mosher?

Mr. KREAS. It could be that at a meeting I was present maybe he was also present, but I did not, to my knowledge, I don't remember. I wouldn't say no, because it could be that if it was a mass meeting or any other meeting where I was he could have been, too, present there.

Mr. WILLIS. Do you recognize the gentleman?

Mr. KREAS. This question I think I answered. I answered this question.

Mr. WILLIS. You answered it in what way?

Mr. KREAS. In the way that I took the constitutional privilege.

Mr. WILLIS. For the record, here is the position you are placing yourself in, or are trying to place yourself in, that you say you are now not a Communist, that you do not want to talk about when you were, and you seem to have an idea that once you disassociated, why, then, you are the judge as to what is important in the past.

Of course, if you honestly disembraced the philosophy of communism I would congratulate you and be happy for you, but if a witness is to come here and say "I am not now a Communist and its none of your business what happened in the past," do you not see that there is a point of no-return there, a point where it becomes silly? A man

would say "I am not a Communist now, but I won't say whether I was one yesterday." It is all left to him as to what is in his mind.

Anyway, I wanted to give you an opportunity to explain yourself. Mr. ARENS. You are excused, Mr. Kreas.

Mr. Mosher will you kindly assume the principal witness seat there?

Mr. KEARNEY. I think the witness might have something to say.

Mr. KREAS. A question of reconsidering one of the questions that the counsel asks me to ask you.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. KREAS. May I reconsider the question that you asked if I knew or if I know this gentleman—Mr. Mosher or whatever his name was.

Mr. ARENS. Would you keep your voice up, please, Mr. Kreas. We can hardly hear you.

Mr. WILLIS. You want to reconsider your answer as to whether or not you know or have known the gentleman on your right—Mr. Mosher?

Mr. KREAS. Yes.

Mr. WILLIS. What is your answer? It has been asked of you twice. I asked it and our counsel did.

Mr. KREAS. My answer is during the 10 years, during the 10 years that I was out of the party I knew him as occasionally or accidentally, maybe I saw him at meetings where I was present.

Mr. KEARNEY. Knew him by the name of Mike Spencer?

Mr. KREAS. Yes; I heard of the name of Mike Spencer; yes.

Mr. ARENS. That was his Communist Party name, you said just a little while ago?

Mr. KREAS. I didn't say this was the Communist Party name.

Mr. ARENS. He said so.

Mr. KREAS. He said so.

Mr. ARENS. Then you knew him under his Communist Party name. Is that correct?

Mr. KREAS. This is the name he called himself. I didn't know of any other name.

Mr. ARENS. Did you have a Communist Party name?

Mr. KREAS. No.

Mr. ARENS. Did you ever have a Communist Party card?

Mr. KREAS. I answered this question; I take the privilege.

Mr. ARENS. That would conclude the staff interrogation of this witness, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you, sir. Mr. Collins will take care of your voucher.

Mr. Mosher would you kindly assume the principal witness chair there.

TESTIMONY OF WORDEN C. MOSHER—Resumed

Mr. ARENS. I am fearful that the record might be a bit confused unless we, in effect, start over again, Mr. Mosher, with you, because there has been considerable colloquy here.

When did you join the Communist Party?

Mr. MOSHER. 1939.

Mr. ARENS. How long were you in the Communist Party?

Mr. MOSHER. Until August of 1950.

Mr. ARENS. Let the record be clear, Mr. Mosher: It is a fact, is it not, that your membership in the Communist Party was solely and exclusively for the purpose of serving your Government?

Mr. MOSHER. That is correct.

Mr. ARENS. Procuring information which you transmitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and, I assume, to other agencies entitled to receive it. Is that correct?

Mr. MOSHER. That is correct.

Mr. ARENS. Now kindly tell us the various posts you held in the Communist Party.

Mr. MOSHER. Well, for a period of something like 10 years I was dues secretary; various clubs, various branches, and for the city. Also, I was membership director, member of the finance committee. I was a member of the organizational education committee.

Mr. WILLIS. A little louder, please, Mr. Mosher.

Mr. MOSHER. And many other committees affiliated with the party.

Mr. ARENS. Before we get into the specific, tell us what is your best appraisal, knowing the techniques of the Communist Party, of the seriousness of the Communist operation in Connecticut as of the time, say, when you disassociated yourself from the Communist Party in 1950. How serious was the conspiracy, sir?

Mr. MOSHER. Well, I feel that it is, not only here but throughout the entire country, a real threat to the United States Government.

Mr. ARENS. How can we, Mr. Mosher, reveal to the average Mr. and Mrs. America just how serious this Communist menace is in this Nation today?

Mr. MOSHER. Well, I believe by exposing the names of the leaders.

Mr. ARENS. It is, in effect, a fifth column of a foreign-controlled conspiracy, is it not?

Mr. MOSHER. That is my opinion.

Mr. ARENS. It is equivalent of at least a couple of divisions of trained conspirators on American soil, is it not?

Mr. MOSHER. I believe so.

Mr. ARENS. Did the hard-core Communists themselves, the actual, what we call, technical members of the conspiracy, have under their discipline other people?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes; they did.

Mr. ARENS. What would be a fair proportion, Mr. Mosher, of the people who are under Communist Party discipline as distinct from the actual 23,000 hard-core members of the conspiracy on American soil?

Mr. MOSHER. I would feel that the fellow travelers or people who are sympathizers would be probably 10 to 1 at least.

Mr. ARENS. Ten to one of the hard core?

Mr. MOSHER. Well, of the membership.

Mr. ARENS. What is your estimate now of the basis of the conspiracy in Connecticut, as to the total membership in the conspiracy itself within this State?

Mr. MOSHER. Well, the total membership of the Communist Party members within the State at the time that I had knowledge was somewhere in the vicinity of eight to nine hundred people.

Mr. WILLIS. How many?

Mr. MOSHER. Eight to nine hundred.

Mr. ARENS. These eight to nine hundred were just not namby-pamby intellectual jackasses; they were members of the conspiracy, were they not?

Mr. MOSHER. Members of the Communist Party.

Mr. ARENS. They were instructed by the conduit to Moscow, under the control of Moscow, were they not?

Mr. MOSHER. To the best of my knowledge.

Mr. ARENS. And a comparable setup exists in other areas of this Nation. Is that not true?

Mr. MOSHER. That is correct.

Mr. ARENS. What is your best estimate as to the number of hard-core members of the conspiracy within the community in which we presently sit, in New Haven?

Mr. MOSHER. Well, in the vicinity of 200.

Mr. ARENS. And these likewise were not just the intellectual dupes or fools; they were the hard core, were they not?

Mr. MOSHER. That is correct.

Mr. ARENS. In addition to that, those under the discipline of the conspiracy. Is that correct?

Mr. MOSHER. That is correct.

Mr. ARENS. Is this serious business in which we are engaged, Mr. Mosher, or are we out here witch hunting?

Mr. MOSHER. It is a very serious business and a real threat to the United States Government.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Mosher, on the basis of your background and experience within the Communist conspiracy in this State, I should like to ask you about some of the specific groups with which you were identified.

Tell us some of the entities within the conspiracy with which you were identified, and then we will proceed from there.

Mr. MOSHER. Some of the various clubs?

Mr. ARENS. Yes, sir.

Mr. MOSHER. There was one known as the Hill Club.

Mr. ARENS. Let us stop right there, if you please, sir, Mr. Mosher.

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Tell us just a word about the Hill Club, and then tell us those people who, to your certain knowledge, were in the Hill Club as Communists.

Mr. MOSHER. There were probably about 15 to 20 members in that club.

Mr. ARENS. Where was that club located?

Mr. MOSHER. 222 Lafayette Street.

Mr. ARENS. In New Haven?

Mr. MOSHER. New Haven.

Mr. ARENS. How late is your information respecting the club?

Mr. MOSHER. 1950.

Mr. ARENS. Now give us, if you please, sir, the best recollection you have of your certain knowledge—and if you have any doubt about any individual, withhold his name—your certain, moral conviction of names of people who were actually members of the Hill Club of the Communist Party.

Mr. MOSHER. I probably can't remember all of them.

Doris Bloom was a member.

Mr. ARENS. Doris Bloom?

Mr. MOSHER. That is correct.

Mr. ARENS. Was her husband a member?

Mr. MOSHER. At times; not all the time.

Mr. ARENS. What was his name?

Mr. MOSHER. Paul Bloom. He was a member of another branch.

Mr. ARENS. All right, sir. Is there another person?

Mr. MOSHER. Diane Hubblebank.

Mr. ARENS. All right, sir.

Mr. MOSHER. Louise Margolin.

Mr. ARENS. Yes, sir.

Mr. MOSHER. Joseph Soyka.

Mr. ARENS. Yes, sir.

Mr. MOSHER. Helena Carter; Max Cruckray, I believe is correct. I do know them all, but I can't remember all of those names at the present time.

Mr. ARENS. Was there another club with which you were identified as a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. MOSHER. The Howe Street Club, 37 Howe Street.

Mr. ARENS. Excuse me, sir.

Please tell me where the Howe Street Club operated.

Mr. MOSHER. 37 Howe Street.

Mr. ARENS. That was in New Haven?

Mr. MOSHER. That is correct.

Mr. ARENS. Tell us the names of the people who, to your certain knowledge, were members of the Howe Street Club of the Communist Party, on the basis of the latest information you had when you disassociated yourself from the party in 1950.

Mr. MOSHER. Saul Kreas was a member of that club.

Mr. ARENS. He is the gentleman who just preceded you on the witness stand?

Mr. MOSHER. That is correct. Also his wife, Pauline.

Mr. ARENS. What was his wife's name?

Mr. MOSHER. Pauline.

Mr. ARENS. All right, sir.

Mr. MOSHER. There was Isadore Spector and his wife, Sarah. Emma and Sam Davis were members of that club. Paul Bloom was also a member of that branch at times. Alpert. There were two couples.

Mr. ARENS. How do you spell that?

Mr. MOSHER. A-l-p-e-r-t.

Mr. ARENS. Do you recall their first names?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes. Yetta was one of the ladies, Y-e-t-t-a. I do not recall their first names at the present time.

Mr. ARENS. Are those all the persons whom you can identify to a moral certainty as members of the Howe Street Club?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Well, was there another club with which you were identified?

Mr. MOSHER. There were other members at that club that I can identify.

Mr. ARENS. Incidentally, I would like to ask you this question: Did the party have a cutout system here in order to isolate one cell of the conspiracy from another cell? I know they have had it elsewhere.

Mr. MOSHER. They did have; that is true.

Mr. ARENS. What was the purpose of the cutout system?

Mr. MOSHER. To prevent members from one club knowing the members from another club.

Mr. KEARNEY. May I ask one question there?

That brings a thought to my mind that yesterday one of the witnesses testified this Communist Party was a political party. Is that the way political parties generally act?

Mr. MOSHER. I wouldn't say it's the way a political party acts; No.

Mr. ARENS. Do you have any appraisal as to whether or not there was any concentration of Communist activity during your experience in this industrial area?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes; there was.

Mr. ARENS. Why would the Communist Party or the Communist conspiracy, more aptly described, concentrate here in its activities?

Mr. MOSHER. Well, because of the brass valley, what is so-called the brass valley. There is a great deal of industry throughout this area.

Mr. ARENS. Yesterday, some folks were named as members of the Communist conspiracy by live witnesses who had been in the conspiracy, and they were brought before this committee and asserted the right which they have under the Constitution to not testify against themselves. Those persons—at least some of them—were presently engaged in some of the industrial establishments of this area.

What difference does it make, from the basis of your background and experience, that these people who have been identified by live witnesses who have been in the conspiracy as undercover agents for the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the Communist Party, should be in the industrial establishments of this area?

Mr. MOSHER. Well, the party has always functioned on the basis of putting 1 or 2 persons in each industry in which, if you have a key person in an industry, it can affect many other people.

Mr. ARENS. Is there a fallacy in numbers, in undertaking to appraise the strength and potency of the conspiracy? Is the conspiracy itself, in other words, a massive organization or is it a hard core of trained people who get at the nerve centers of communities?

Mr. MOSHER. The function of the Communist Party is to establish people in various industries in order to form a core.

Mr. ARENS. And then does the party have mass organizations which are called Communist fronts?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes; it does.

Mr. ARENS. Now could you tell us if there was any other club with which you were identified while you were in the Communist Party.

Mr. MOSHER. There was the Dixwell Club.

Mr. ARENS. Tell us where that was, please, sir.

Mr. MOSHER. That had various addresses; not always at the same location.

Mr. ARENS. Who, to your certain knowledge, were members of the Dixwell Club of the Communist Party?

Mr. MOSHER. Joe Demow; Paul Bloom was also a member of that branch at one time. Fanny Green; Thelma Meites, M-e-i-t-e-s; Lillian Kaplan; Emma Davis.

Those are the ones I recall at this time.

Mr. ARENS. How does it serve the interests of the Communist conspiracy to have people in the conspiracy located in such plants as General Electric and in the AVCO plant that we heard about yesterday?

Mr. MOSHER. Well, members of the Communist Party that go in these plants usually become a steward or else an organizer in regard to the union, and, in that way, they are able to influence other people in the factory.

Mr. ARENS. According to the paper this morning, some people were being called on the carpet or perhaps discharged from their jobs because they invoked the fifth amendment before this committee yesterday, notwithstanding the fact that they had been identified by live witnesses, undercover agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and had the opportunity to confront those witnesses yesterday.

In your judgment, is it in the public interest and in the interest of the public security to fire people from the industrial plants of this Nation, not on the basis of invocation of the fifth amendment but whenever they are identified by live undercover agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation as members of the Communist conspiracy and when, given an opportunity to deny it, fail to do so?

In your judgment, from the basis of your experience, is that good procedure?

Mr. MOSHER. I would say "Yes."

Mr. ARENS. Now was there another club with which you were identified while you were in the Communist Party?

Mr. MOSHER. Not that I was directly a member of.

Mr. ARENS. Do you have information respecting the existence of other clubs in the New Haven area?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes. There was from 10 to 12 clubs in New Haven.

Mr. ARENS. Could you tell us the names of some of these other clubs.

Mr. MOSHER. There was the Youth Club.

Mr. ARENS. How many members were there in the Youth Club?

Mr. MOSHER. I would say approximately 25.

Mr. ARENS. Do you have the names of people who, to your certain knowledge, were at least the leaders of the Youth Club?

Mr. MOSHER. Harold Mosher was one of them.

Mr. ARENS. Harold Mosher was your son?

Mr. MOSHER. That is right.

Mr. ARENS. He, like you, was in the Communist Party in order to obtain information. Is that correct?

Mr. MOSHER. That is correct.

Mr. ARENS. He did it as a patriotic service in order to procure information that could be transmitted to the intelligence agencies of this Government. Is that correct?

Mr. MOSHER. That is correct.

Mr. ARENS. Who else was in the Youth Club in leadership capacity? Perhaps we should address that question a little later on to your son.

Mr. MOSHER. Barney Burke was a member of that club. Al Marder was a member of it.

Mr. ARENS. Spell it.

Mr. MOSHER. M-a-r-d-e-r.

There was a Priscilla Small.

I believe he can answer you the question on just the membership of the club.

Mr. ARENS. Yes, sir. Now, was there another club?

Mr. MOSHER. Grand Avenue Club.

Mr. ARENS. On the basis of your background and experience in the Communist Party, can you tell us who, to your certain knowledge, was a member or in leadership position in the Grand Avenue Club?

Mr. MOSHER. To the best of my knowledge, I believe Oscar Margolin was mainly in charge of that club.

Mr. ARENS. You identify him here and now as a member of the Communist Party. Is that correct?

Mr. MOSHER. I do.

Mr. ARENS. Is there another club?

Mr. MOSHER. There was an Industrial Club.

Mr. ARENS. Could you tell us about that club?

Mr. MOSHER. That particular club—I do not know too many of the members of it.

Mr. ARENS. Do you remember the leadership of the club?

Mr. MOSHER. I believe Sidney Taylor, himself, had a lot to do with that club.

Mr. ARENS. Do you know the number, the approximate number in that club?

Mr. MOSHER. I would believe there were probably 15 or 20 members.

Mr. ARENS. By the way, what percentage of the conspiracy operates in the open and what percentage operates in what we would call underground?

Mr. MOSHER. Well, supposedly they were supposed to be operating openly.

Mr. ARENS. How much of the conspiracy operates underground?

Mr. MOSHER. That I could not—

Mr. ARENS. You were not in the underground apparatus?

Mr. MOSHER. I was not.

Mr. ARENS. Now, is there another club?

Mr. MOSHER. The Railroad Club.

Mr. ARENS. Who was the head of or who were the leaders of that group?

Mr. MOSHER. There is at least two of the group that are dead at the present time.

Mr. ARENS. You might just as well leave them out.

Mr. MOSHER. There was a James McDonough. I believe there was a Bob Kennedy. I don't recall any others.

Mr. ARENS. All right, sir.

Do you have an idea as to the membership in the Railroad Club?

Mr. MOSHER. I believe there were about 10 members.

Mr. ARENS. Now, is there another club?

Mr. MOSHER. There are various outlying clubs, such as Branford.

Mr. ARENS. Is that a community here in this area?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes; about 8 or 10 miles out.

Mr. ARENS. Do you recall the leaders of that club?

Mr. MOSHER. There was a Jean Lindsey down there.

Mr. ARENS. Is that a man or woman.

Mr. MOSHER. Woman.

Mr. ARENS. How is that spelled?

Mr. MOSHER. J-e-a-n.

Mr. ARENS. L-i-n-d-s-e-y?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes.

Leonard Farmer and, at least part of the time, his wife. And I believe her name was Estelle. There were probably about 10 members in that club.

Mr. ARENS. Now is there another club?

Mr. MOSHER. The Professional Club with a professional branch in New Haven.

Mr. ARENS. Professional branch? Who were the leaders of the professional branch?

Mr. MOSHER. I did not have contact with that club.

Mr. ARENS. You just knew it was there. Did that apply to the cut-out system?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. Was there a Yale Club?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, there was a Yale branch; yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Could you tell us the leaders of the Yale Club?

Mr. MOSHER. I believe George Raymond was one of the leaders of that club.

Mr. ARENS. How do you spell that?

Mr. MOSHER. R-a-y-m-o-n-d. George Russell Raymond.

Mr. ARENS. Was that a club consisting of students?

Mr. MOSHER. Mainly students; yes.

Mr. ARENS. How many were in the Yale Club?

Mr. MOSHER. I would say 15 to 20.

Mr. ARENS. Now was there another club?

Mr. MOSHER. At various periods there was a CIO branch, and there was an A. F. of L. branch.

Mr. ARENS. Were you actively identified with those branches or was that part of the cutout system?

Mr. MOSHER. This was mainly in the early 1940's.

Mr. ARENS. Could you tell us the names of the people in the Industrial Club. I believe I skipped that in the interrogation a moment ago.

Mr. MOSHER. Joe Demow was active in that club.

Mr. ARENS. Could you give us a word of identification of Joe Demow?

Mr. MOSHER. He was recently one of the defendants in the Smith Act trial.

Mr. ARENS. Did you ever know as a Communist a man by the name of Sam Gruber?

Mr. MOSHER. I knew who Sam Gruber was. He was not from this area.

Mr. ARENS. Did you ever know as a Communist a person by the name of Josephine Willard?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. What was the nature of your acquaintanceship with her?

Mr. MOSHER. I met her at many State conventions of the party, which were closed meetings, over a period of many years.

Mr. ARENS. What was her status in the party?

Mr. MOSHER. Well, she was always recognized as a leader, and, at various times, a member on the State board, State committee.

Mr. ARENS. Did you ever know a person in the party by the name of Frank Fazekas?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. What was his status in the party?

Mr. MOSHER. Very similar to Josephine Willard's.

Mr. ARENS. Did you ever know a person in the Communist Party, or persons, by the name of Joe and Lois Barnes?

Mr. MOSHER. I did.

Mr. ARENS. What was their status in the party?

Mr. MOSHER. I do not know their correct status in the party. I know them at State convention meetings and like that where they used to speak.

Mr. ARENS. What occasioned your disassociation from the party in 1950?

Mr. MOSHER. The State had a large State gathering at which time they, I believe, sifted out those who they were not positive of as members in the party.

I was told that they did not know enough about my background, and, therefore, I was being dropped from the party.

Mr. MOSHER. You were, in other words, thrown out of the party because of party security? They did not trust you?

Mr. MOSHER. That is correct.

Mr. ARENS. Do you suppose they might have gotten some intimation that maybe you were not as trustworthy a comrade as they would like to have?

Mr. MOSHER. Quite possibly.

Mr. ARENS. Did you ever know a person by the name of Bernard, Bernie Burg?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Could you give us a little identification of him?

Mr. MOSHER. He was very active in all party work, committees; spoke at various meetings; was a member of the Howe Club, and I believe also a member of the Youth branch.

Mr. ARENS. Did you ever know a person by the name of Fanny Green?

Mr. MOSHER. I did. She was a member of the Dixwell Club.

Mr. ARENS. The which club?

Mr. MOSHER. Dixwell.

Mr. ARENS. Did you ever know a person by the name of Frank Peterson?

Mr. MOSHER. Frank Peterson was from Bridgeport or that area.

Mr. ARENS. Do you know whether or not Frank Peterson was a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, sir; he was.

Mr. ARENS. Did you ever know a person by the name of Dave Goldberg?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Did you know Dave Goldberg as a member of the party?

Mr. MOSHER. I believe he was a member of the professional branch.

Mr. ARENS. Of the Communist Party in New Haven?

Mr. MOSHER. That is right.

Mr. ARENS. Did you ever know a person by the name of Dave Stahl, S-t-a-h-l?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Do you know whether or not he was a Communist?

Mr. MOSHER. Also, I believe, he was a member of the professional branch.

Mr. ARENS. Now, Mr. Mosher, I have asked you a great number of specific questions here. Is there any other item of information which you feel is of sufficient significance that you would like to call to the attention of the committee? Any area in which we may not have asked you about?

Mr. MOSHER. There was one thing which came to my attention when Mr. Kreas was testifying—that he had not been a member in 10 years.

Mr. WILLIS. Who?

Mr. MOSHER. Mr. Kreas.

Yet in 1949 he was in charge of raising funds for the defense of the Communist leaders in New York.

Mr. ARENS. Was that under the discipline of the Communist conspiracy?

Mr. MOSHER. It was under the Communist Party.

Mr. KEARNEY. Is that the witness who just left the stand?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, sir.

Mr. KEARNEY. Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that there is a question of perjury involved in his testimony.

Mr. WILLIS. The record, of course, will have to be reviewed.

Mr. ARENS. Is there any further information, Mr. Mosher, which you would like to give to the committee at this time, any items or areas in which we have not interrogated you?

I do not want to press you or tax your memory on something you are not thoroughly familiar with.

Mr. MOSHER. Not at the present time.

Mr. ARENS. Thank you very much for your testimony.

Mr. Chairman that would conclude the staff interrogation of this witness.

Mr. KEARNEY. I have no questions, but I want to thank Mr. Mosher for his testimony. It shows, as one who has been definitely connected with the Communist Party, that there are over some 200 Communists in the New Haven area.

Mr. WILLIS. Our counsel asked you a few questions about the security measures, secrecy with respect to the membership of one club and another. Do I understand that here, as apparently elsewhere, the right hand does not know what the left hand is doing in these various clubs as a general rule? Is that correct?

Mr. MOSHER. In the earlier 1940's or middle 1940's there was not as much security as there was later. At a later time it was broken into not clubs of 15 or 20, but from 3 to 5 in a group for security measures. One group did not know the other group.

Mr. WILLIS. Well, that came about as a result of the Smith Act and so on and tighter measures undertaken by the committees of Congress, and prosecution and so on. It was in response to the drive at that time. That is a matter of history. Is that not true?

Mr. MOSHER. That is true.

Mr. WILLIS. And it is particularly true today that the pattern is that these cells are becoming more and more restricted and more and more closely knit so that one group of members in an area really does not know—are not supposed to know members of another group. That was the pattern as of the time you left the party in 1950?

Mr. MOSHER. That is correct.

Mr. WILLIS. During all this time that you have testified about, you were regularly reporting to the FBI. Is that correct?

Mr. MOSHER. That is correct.

Mr. WILLIS. And you became a member, as an undercover agent for the FBI, in order to report to your Government as to the activities?

Mr. MOSHER. That is correct.

Mr. WILLIS. And in your reporting system, I suppose, you became aware of the techniques of investigation developed by this wonderful agency of the Government, the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Is that correct?

Mr. MOSHER. That is correct.

Mr. WILLIS. How often would you report to your superiors, Federal Government?

Mr. MOSHER. It would depend somewhat on the value of the information that we had. However, it would be probably 2 or 3 times each week. At times it was more often.

Mr. WILLIS. Did you happen to be under particularly restricted security measures, not for the detection of your own self?

Mr. MOSHER. Due to the fact that I lost many of my personal friends.

Mr. WILLIS. Pardon?

Mr. MOSHER. I lost many personal friends, because they thought I was a member of the Communist Party.

Mr. WILLIS. In other words, word went around that you were suspect, and, as a result, you had to suffer scorn from your own friends.

Mr. MOSHER. That is correct.

Mr. WILLIS. That is not unusual, is it? That is the experience of a lot of people like yourself and Mr. Kent and Miss Paumi, that very frequently in this wonderful work you have to do for the Government in trying to bring about security and, incidentally, in the preservation of the constitutional rights and liberties of all the people, that somebody has to do the job at the expense of losing friends and a lot of heartaches. Is that correct?

Mr. MOSHER. That is correct.

Mr. WILLIS. Well, let me tell you that we are very grateful to you, and by "we" I speak officially for my two colleagues here and for the committee, and, I know, for the Congress of the United States.

You have done a dedicated piece of work. You are to be congratulated. And do not ever mind the thing that goes abroad, that you are a stool pigeon, that we members of this committee are witch hunters. Do not let that worry you a bit. That is all right. Somebody has to do the job, and we felicitate you and commend you with all we have in our hearts.

Thank you very much.

Mr. MOSHER. Thank you.

Mr. KEARNEY. I am quite interested about your thoughts about the previous witness, Kreas. Is that correct?

Mr. MOSHER. That is correct.

Mr. KEARNEY. I understood that you stated substantially that he was in charge of a drive to collect funds for something?

Mr. MOSHER. At the time the 12 top leaders were on trial in New York, in 1949 and 1950, there was a fund-raising campaign for their defense. Mr. Kreas was in charge of that.

Mr. KEARNEY. He was in charge of raising funds for the defense of the 12 top Communists who were being tried in the city of New York?

Mr. MOSHER. That is correct.

Mr. KEARNEY. That is a rather strange job for a man who said he disassociated himself from the party 10 years previous, is it not?

Mr. MOSHER. He said that he didn't know me also. However, I attended many, many committee meetings where there were only a very few of us, together with Mr. Kreas.

Mr. ARENS. Were those closed party meetings?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes.

Mr. WILLIS. And they were not social; they were serious?

Mr. MOSHER. No, sir; not social.

Mr. KEARNEY. Well, if that is so, unless the witness was a member of the Communist Party, certainly he would not be admitted to the Communist Party meeting, would he?

Mr. MOSHER. Mr. Kreas paid dues to me for many years.

Mr. KEARNEY. Did he pay dues to you in the late 1940's and early 1950's?

Mr. MOSHER. I was out of the party from August 1950.

Mr. KEARNEY. Did he pay dues from 1948 to 1949?

Mr. MOSHER. From 1939 to 1950.

Mr. KEARNEY. So that belies his statement that he had disassociated himself from the party in the last 10 years because 1950 through today is only 6 years?

Mr. MOSHER. That is my belief.

Mr. KEARNEY. During his campaign or while he was in charge of the campaign to collect funds for these 12 Communists on trial in New York City, was, to your knowledge, any attempt made to collect funds through veterans' organizations?

Mr. MOSHER. I wouldn't know correctly whether it was done through veterans' organizations.

Mr. KEARNEY. Or was this general fund raising?

Mr. MOSHER. Mainly from party members or sympathizers.

Mr. KEARNEY. This disassociated Communist was in charge of that drive?

Mr. MOSHER. That is correct.

Mr. KEARNEY. That is a startling revelation.

I still suggest, Mr. Chairman, that after the hearings are over that the file be reviewed and sent on to the Department of Justice for their opinion on whether to prefer charges against that witness.

Mr. WILLIS. That certainly will be done.

Did I understand the witness to say—or counsel—that the number of clubs in this area while he was in the party was 15 or 20?

Mr. MOSHER. 10 or 12.

Mr. WILLIS. You have named here, on the witness stand, under oath, as a former individual having the confidence of the Federal Bureau of Investigation—or I doubt that they would have kept you for 11 years from 1939 until 1950—you have named clubs, you have named names, you have named events, you have subjected your word against the word of many other people very bravely and courageously, in my opinion. Let me remind those who have been named by you that, under the rules of this committee, anyone who has been named and

considers he has been damaged, has the right to get in touch with our counsel and explain away what you have testified.

Let the record show that very clearly.

That is all.

Mr. ARENS. Thank you, Mr. Mosher.

Mr. WILLIS. The committee will take an informal recess of 5 minutes.

(Whereupon, a brief recess was taken, there being present at the time of taking the recess Representatives Willis and Kearney.)

Mr. WILLIS. The subcommittee will come to order.

Will counsel call the next witness.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Samuel Richter.

Please come forward.

Remain standing, Mr. Richter, while the chairman administers an oath to you.

Mr. WILLIS. Raise your right hand.

Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you, God?

Mr. RICHTER. I do.

TESTIMONY OF SAMUEL RICHTER, ACCOMPANIED BY COUNSEL, VICTOR RABINOWITZ

Mr. ARENS. Please be seated.

Kindly identify yourself by name, residence, and occupation.

Mr. RICHTER. My name is Samuel Richter. I live at 474 Edison Road, Trumbull.

My occupation—

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. RICHTER. I am—let's see. How should I put it?

I am a sort of superintendent.

Mr. ARENS. Well, we will be a little more specific a little later on.

You are appearing today in response to a subpoena which was served upon you by the House Committee on Un-American Activities?

Mr. RICHTER. I am, but I would like to ask a question on procedure of this committee.

Mr. ARENS. And you are represented by counsel?

Mr. RICHTER. I would like to ask a question.

Mr. ARENS. Are you represented by counsel?

Mr. RICHTER. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. Counsel, will you kindly identify yourself.

Mr. RABINOWITZ. Victor Rabinowitz, New York City.

Mr. ARENS. Where is it that you are employed, Mr. Richter?

Mr. RICHTER. Before we commence with the questioning—

What is your name, please?

Mr. ARENS. Richard Arens.

Would you kindly answer the question as to where you are employed.

Mr. RICHTER. I would like to ask a question on the procedure.

Mr. ARENS. Ask the question. That is all right.

Mr. RICHTER. What is the subject of the investigation of this committee in relation to me, Mr. Arens?

Mr. ARENS. Communist conspiracy.

Kindly tell us where you were employed Mr. Richter.

Mr. RICHTER. I would like to know what the names of the members of this committee are.

Mr. ARENS. Kindly——

Mr. WILLIS. The subject of the investigation and all of that was brought out in the opening statement.

Counsel will proceed.

Mr. RICHTER. I would like to know the names of the members of the committee.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, I respectfully suggest that the witness be ordered and directed to answer the principal outstanding question.

Mr. WILLIS. You are directed to answer that question.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. RICHTER. Your question, please.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Reporter, will you read the question.

(The pending question was read by the reporter.)

Mr. RABINOWITZ. May I ask a question, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. WILLIS. Mr. Rabinowitz, you are an old hand before this committee. You know the rules very well. There is a pending question, and the witness has been directed to answer it.

Mr. RABINOWITZ. The witness would like to raise the question of the presence of a quorum. He has a right to know that under the Supreme Court decisions and, I believe, under the rules of this committee.

Mr. ARENS. You know there is a quorum present. This is a 3-man subcommittee which was appointed, and 2 are two-thirds of 3.

Now please answer the question.

Where are you employed, Mr. Richter?

Mr. RICHTER. Mr. Arens, do you have to raise your voice?

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, I respectfully suggest, for the second time, that the witness be ordered and directed to answer the question. And, if he does not intend to answer, I intend to ask another question.

Mr. RICHTER. You ask me where I work, Mr. Arens?

I work for the Reliable Steel Drum Co. in Bridgeport, Conn.

Mr. ARENS. And what is your job at that company?

Mr. RICHTER. I am a sort of superintendent.

Mr. ARENS. How long have you been so engaged?

Mr. RICHTER. About 10 years.

Mr. ARENS. Are you a member of a labor organization there?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. RICHTER. No.

Mr. ARENS. And what was your employment immediately preceding your employment at the Reliable Steel Drum Co.?

Mr. RICHTER. I was in the Army.

Mr. ARENS. And during what period of time were you in the Army?

Mr. RICHTER. 1943 to 1946.

Mr. ARENS. Was there any employment that intervened after your discharge from the Army until your present employment with the Reliable Steel Drum Co.?

Mr. RICHTER. I didn't get that, Mr. Arens. Will you repeat that, please?

Mr. ARENS. After you were discharged from the Army in 1946 did you have any other employment prior to your present employment at the Reliable Steel Drum Co.?

Mr. RICHTER. You already asked me what I did before I worked for the Reliable Steel Drum, and I said I was in the Army. Therefore, there was nothing in between.

Mr. ARENS. Thank you, sir.

Mr. RICHTER. You are quite welcome.

Mr. ARENS. Were you drafted or did you enlist?

Mr. RICHTER. I was drafted.

Mr. ARENS. Tell us, did you have a commission?

Mr. RICHTER. No.

Mr. ARENS. Where did you serve?

Mr. RICHTER. In the continental United States.

Mr. ARENS. In what branch or unit of the Army did you serve?

Mr. RICHTER. The Air Corps.

Mr. ARENS. In what unit of the Air Corps?

Mr. RICHTER. What do you mean "what unit"?

Mr. ARENS. What did you do in the Air Corps?

Mr. RICHTER. I was a mechanic.

Mr. ARENS. Where were you located in the United States?

Mr. RICHTER. Quite a few places.

Mr. ARENS. Name some of them, if you please, sir.

Mr. RICHTER. Well, let me think.

Is it all right if I take a little time because I have been in quite a few places.

I was at a place called Camp Upton, Long Island. That is where I was sent originally. Then I was sent to Mississippi, I believe.

Mississippi.

Then—you realize this is some time ago, Mr. Arens.

Mr. ARENS. Surely. We want your best recollection, if you please, sir.

Mr. RICHTER. Then I think I was sent to Buffalo, a very cold place in the wintertime. Then I think I was sent to California, and it was a very warm place.

It's funny to go in a short time from a cold place to a warm place.

Then I think I was sent to Charleston, S. C., a horrible place. Then I was sent to New Jersey, I believe.

Gee, I am close to being discharged.

Then I was sent to Long Island. Then I was sent home.

Mr. ARENS. Did you receive an honorable discharge?

Mr. RICHTER. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. During your service in the United States Army did you have access to confidential or restricted information of any kind, character or description?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. RICHTER. No.

Mr. ARENS. During the period of your service in the United States Army, were you under the discipline of any organization which is controlled by a foreign power?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. RICHTER. Aside from the fact that I consider it an impertinent question, I will refuse to answer it on the grounds of the fifth amendment, based on what this committee thinks about subversive organizations and such, that it would tend to incriminate me. And, of course, the question is insulting, to begin with.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Richter, kindly tell us, if you please, sir, what your employment was immediately prior to 1943 when you went into the United States Army.

Mr. RICHTER. I worked for General Electric Co.

Mr. ARENS. Where was that, please, sir?

Mr. RICHTER. Bridgeport.

Mr. ARENS. And in what capacity?

Mr. RICHTER. Just a worker.

Mr. ARENS. Over what period of time?

Mr. RICHTER. It must be approximately a year or so, perhaps a little less.

Mr. ARENS. What occasioned your disassociation from General Electric?

Mr. RICHTER. I was drafted.

Mr. ARENS. What was your employment immediately prior to your employment at General Electric in 1942?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. KEARNEY. I suggest, Mr. Chairman, that the witness conduct himself like a human being in the courtroom. If he is tired we might bring in a bed for him.

Mr. RICHTER. I wouldn't object. I think I am conducting myself as a gentleman. If I make myself comfortable I don't think the committee has any objection. It shouldn't. You are trying to make it uncomfortable for me.

Mr. KEARNEY. We want you to be comfortable.

Mr. RICHTER. Thank you.

The question again, please.

Mr. ARENS. The outstanding question is what was your employment immediately prior to your employment at General Electric.

Mr. RICHTER. I refuse to answer that question.

In the first place, it's really none of your business.

Mr. WILLIS. In the first place—

Mr. RICHTER. I said it's none of your business. But I realize that is no constitutional grounds. So I will cite my constitutional grounds.

My constitutional grounds are the fifth amendment. The answer to this question will tend to incriminate me, although knowing full well that the incriminating provision of the fifth amendment was for the innocent, gentlemen, not for the guilty. So don't jump to any conclusions.

Mr. ARENS. Do you honestly apprehend, Mr. Richter, that if you tell this committee the employment which you had immediately prior to your employment at General Electric you would be supplying information which might be used against you in a criminal proceeding?

Mr. RICHTER. You put it very delicately, don't you, Mr. Arens?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. RICHTER. The answer to that question, Mr. Arens—I have really stated my position.

Mr. Arens, are you listening?

Pay attention.

I have already stated my grounds, and, of course, this is my right, you understand. This committee understands that **this is my right** to fall back on the fifth amendment and not have to say before that or after that.

I prefer not to elaborate.

Do I have to stand on the fifth amendment to answer the second part of the question, Counsel?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. KEARNEY. I suggest, Mr. Chairman, that he answer the question without making a speech. We are not interested in any speech he might make.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. RICHTER. I have answered the question sufficiently.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman—

Mr. WILLIS. What was the answer?

Mr. RICHTER. I said I have answered the question sufficiently.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, so that the record may be absolutely clear, I respectfully suggest that the witness now be ordered and directed to answer the question as to whether or not he honestly apprehends, if he told this committee the truth as to the employment which he had immediately prior to his employment at General Electric, he would be supplying information which might be used against him in a criminal proceeding.

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. WILLIS. Yes; you are directed to answer that question, particularly, because of your comment that to answer it is none of our business.

Now it has to be something other than that for you to invoke the protection of the fifth amendment. You are at perfect liberty to invoke it. We do not challenge; we concede your right to do it. You are welcome to do it. But that very constitutional provision means business, and that is, you must tell us whether honestly, in invoking it, you fear the pains and penalties of the consequences.

So you are directed to answer the question.

Mr. RICHTER. Well, in case it is not already clear that I have answered the question, I will clarify it by saying that I refuse to answer the question based on the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, I respectfully suggest that we let this record show we are not going to get on this subject with this witness again at this time. He has made his bed, and he will have to lie in it.

Mr. WILLIS. Precisely.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Witness, I lay before you a photostatic copy of a document entitled "Nominating Petition for November, 1946, Elections" under the title and designation of Communist Party. A signature appears at the bottom of the petition which we have underlined with a red pencil.

I ask you if you will kindly tell this committee whether or not that is your signature?

(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. RICHTER. Mr. Arens, is that underlined or crossed out?

Mr. ARENS. It is the red underline there.

Please tell us whether or not that is your signature.

Mr. RICHTER. I see a line through it. I was wondering.

Mr. ARENS. Kindly tell us whether or not that is your signature.

Mr. RICHTER. I refuse to answer that question on the basis of the fifth amendment, that the answer may tend to incriminate me. And, also, I repeat again that the fifth amendment is for the protection of the innocent.

Mr. ARENS. What was your employment in 1941?

Mr. RICHTER. Well, Mr. Arens, you are going back quite a ways, and I don't have a bad memory, I think you will admit, but 1941—
(The witness confers with his counsel.)

Mr. RICHTER. I refuse to answer that question on the basis of the fifth amendment. The answer would tend to incriminate me.

Mr. ARENS. Where did you live in 1941, please, sir?

Mr. RICHTER. If my memory serves me correctly, and the reason I just refused to answer go together, I must have lived in Philadelphia.

Mr. ARENS. How long have you lived in Bridgeport?

Mr. RICHTER. 12, 13, 14 years; something like that.

Mr. ARENS. Where did you live immediately prior to the time that you came to Bridgeport?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. RICHTER. I am pretty sure I worked in Baltimore, Md.

Mr. ARENS. Where did you work in Baltimore; what establishment?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. RICHTER. I refuse to answer that question, based on the fifth amendment that the answer would tend to incriminate me, and also to remind the committee that the fifth amendment is for the protection of the innocent.

Mr. ARENS. How long did you live in Baltimore?

Mr. RICHTER. Oh, perhaps less than a year. I do not recall exactly.

Mr. ARENS. Where did you live prior to the time that you resided in Baltimore?

Mr. RICHTER. Didn't I just say Philadelphia?

Mr. ARENS. Is that where it was; Philadelphia? Thank you, sir. How long did you live in Philadelphia?

Mr. RICHTER. Six or seven months; something like that.

Mr. ARENS. What was your employment when you lived in Philadelphia?

Mr. RICHTER. I refuse to answer that question on the grounds that the answer may incriminate me, and also to point out to the committee that the fifth amendment is for the protection of the innocent; thank you, gentlemen.

Mr. ARENS. Where did you live immediately prior to the time you moved in Philadelphia?

Mr. RICHTER. Do you remember the year, Mr. Arens? I don't want to get confused here.

Mr. ARENS. Just tell us where you lived prior to the time you took up this occupation in Philadelphia, about which if you told us you would be supplying information which could be used against you in a criminal proceeding.

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. RICHTER. You want to know where I worked before I went where?

Mr. ARENS. Where did you live prior to the time that you moved to Philadelphia?

Mr. RICHTER. Where did I live prior to the time I moved to Philadelphia?

Mr. ARENS. Yes, sir.

Mr. RICHTER. Bridgeport.

Mr. ARENS. And how long did you live at Bridgeport during that period?

Mr. RICHTER. A little less than a year, I think.

Mr. ARENS. And what was your occupation?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. RICHTER. I was a mechanic.

Mr. ARENS. Where were you employed?

Mr. RICHTER. I refuse to answer that question, based on the fifth amendment, that the answer may incriminate me, and to remind the committee that the fifth amendment is for the protection of the innocent.

Mr. ARENS. What did you work on as a mechanic?

Mr. RICHTER. Same answer.

Mr. ARENS. Did you work on automobiles?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. RICHTER. Same answer.

Mr. ARENS. Did you work on contrivances other than automobiles?

Mr. RICHTER. Come, Mr. Arens.

Mr. ARENS. Were you in good faith a mechanic, or were you only masquerading as a mechanic?

Mr. RICHTER. I used to walk around in dirty pants masquerading. I refuse to answer that question.

Mr. ARENS. Where were you born?

Mr. RICHTER. New York City.

Mr. ARENS. When?

Mr. RICHTER. July 17, 1912.

Mr. ARENS. Where did you go to school?

Mr. RICHTER. In New York City.

Mr. ARENS. What school did you attend?

Mr. RICHTER. I went to school in Chicago, too. I lived in Chicago for a while.

Mr. ARENS. When did you move from New York City to Chicago?

Mr. RICHTER. I think I was about 4 years old.

Mr. ARENS. Tell us the schools you attended in Chicago.

Mr. RICHTER. Well, I was only a youngster; I really don't know.

Mr. ARENS. Did you attend grammar schools in Chicago?

Mr. RICHTER. I attended one, I believe.

Mr. ARENS. Did you attend high school in Chicago?

Mr. RICHTER. No.

Mr. ARENS. Did you attend high school?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. RICHTER. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. Where did you attend high school?

Mr. RICHTER. In New York City.

Mr. ARENS. Then I take it the family moved back from Chicago to New York City; is that correct?

Mr. RICHTER. Well, any other conclusion will have meant I ran away from home, but I didn't.

Mr. ARENS. What high school did you attend in New York City?

Mr. RICHTER. Peter Stuyvesant; a grand school. I wonder if it's still standing. It was 100 years old, I think, when I went there.

Mr. ARENS. When did you graduate from high school?

Mr. RICHTER. You mean to say you really don't know? 1932, I think.

Mr. ARENS. Did that complete your formal education?

Mr. RICHTER. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. Have you attended any other school in the course of your life?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. RICHTER. I refuse to answer that question, based on the fifth amendment, that the answer may tend to incriminate me, and also to remind the committee that the fifth amendment is for the protection of the innocent.

Mr. ARENS. Did you ever attend the Jefferson School of Social Science?

Mr. RICHTER. Same answer.

Mr. ARENS. Did you ever receive any specialized training by some organization which is controlled by a foreign power?

Mr. RICHTER. Are you kidding? Are you serious about that question, Mr. Arens?

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, I respectfully suggest the witness be ordered and directed to answer that question.

Mr. RICHTER. Well, you asked me a question before, are you serious about—"did you in good faith, were you in good faith, a mechanic?"—and I ask you in good faith are you kidding or weren't you?

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, I respectfully ask that the witness be ordered and directed to answer the question.

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. WILLIS. You are directed to answer the question.

Mr. RICHTER. I refuse to answer that question, based on the fifth amendment. I hate to go through this again, but in order to point out to the committee that I am serious about this, the fifth amendment, the answer may tend to incriminate me, and also that the fifth amendment and the incriminating provisions are for the protection of the innocent.

Mr. ARENS. What was your first occupation after you concluded your schooling at Peter Stuyvesant School in New York City?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. RICHTER. I was an office boy.

Mr. ARENS. And in what establishment?

Mr. RICHTER. What establishment? Some beauty parlor establishment.

Mr. ARENS. How long were you employed there?

Mr. RICHTER. Maybe 2 or 3 years, I don't know.

Mr. ARENS. What was your next employment?

Mr. RICHTER. Let's see, where are we here? What year?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. RICHTER. I refuse to answer that question, based on the fifth amendment, that the answer may tend to incriminate me and to point out to this committee that the fifth amendment and its incriminating provisions are for the protection of the innocent.

Mr. ARENS. To what period of time are you alluding now?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. RICHTER. I know where I was after that; I was in the Army.

Mr. ARENS. Did you go into the Army directly after your employment with the beauty establishment as an office boy?

Mr. RICHTER. Yes. I was in the Army for 2 years. I enlisted, wasn't drafted. I served 2 years in Honolulu.

Mr. ARENS. When you went into the Army, did you take an oath of allegiance to support and defend the Constitution of the United States?

Mr. RICHTER. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. At the time you took that oath, did you have any mental reservations?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. RICHTER. No.

Mr. ARENS. Were you, at the time you took that oath, a member of an organization dedicated to the destruction of the Constitution of the United States and the overthrow of the Government of the United States by force and violence?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. RICHTER. I invoke the fifth amendment on the basis that the answer may tend to incriminate me, and to point out to this committee that the fifth amendment is for the protection of the innocent.

Mr. ARENS. Are you innocent of any conspiratorial operations or membership in a conspiratorial organization dedicated to the destruction of the Constitution of the United States?

Mr. RICHTER. I refuse to answer that question, based on the fifth amendment, that the answer may tend to incriminate me, and to point out to this committee that in the fifth amendment, the incriminating provisions thereof are for the protection of the innocent; therefore, I don't intend to impute or imply any guilt.

Mr. ARENS. Do you know a man by the name of Mr. Kent?

Mr. RICHTER. Would you please point him out?

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Kent, will you please stand?

Look over your shoulder and take a good look at this gentleman?

Mr. RICHTER. Who cleans up if I get sick and vomit?

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Kent, will you please come forward.

Mr. RICHTER. Is it really human?

Mr. ARENS. Do you know that gentleman?

Mr. RICHTER. Is it human—the lousy S-O-B.

I want to confer with my counsel. Stand back. Order him to stand back so I can confer with my counsel.

Mr. WILLIS. Do you have a pending question, Mr. Counsel?

Mr. ARENS. Yes.

Do you know Mr. Kent?

Mr. RICHTER. I want to confer with my counsel and I don't want this stool pigeon listening in.

Mr. WILLIS. If you wish to confer with counsel, that is all right.

Mr. ARENS. Stand over here, Mr. Kent.

Mr. RICHTER. Don't drop him, he will break.

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. RICHTER. I refuse to answer that question, based on the fifth amendment, that the answer may tend to—just let me finish. It made me sick.

Mr. ARENS. Excuse me.

Mr. RICHTER. That the answer may tend to incriminate me and I also want to point out to the committee that the fifth amendment is for the protection of the innocent; besides, the degradation involved.

Take him away, please.

Mr. WILLIS. That amendment is frequently taken advantage of as a haven by the guilty.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Richter, Mr. Kent testified under oath before this committee that he knew you as a member of the Communist conspiracy while he was serving the Federal Bureau of Investigation as an undercover agent in that conspiracy. Was Mr. Kent lying or was he telling the truth?

Mr. RICHTER. I would like to confer at this point to see just how I should word this; pretty tricky there.

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. RICHTER. I refuse to answer that question based on the fifth amendment that the answer may tend to incriminate me and to point out to the committee that the fifth amendment is for the protection of the innocent.

Mr. ARENS. Do you deny that Mr. Kent was telling the truth?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. RICHTER. Same answer.

Mr. ARENS. Thank you, Mr. Kent.

Miss Paumi, would you kindly stand?

Mr. Richter, do you know a person by the name of Rowena Paumi?

Mr. RICHTER. Is it standing?

Mr. ARENS. Do you know a person by the name of Rowena Paumi?

Mr. RICHTER. Have you sold your mother and father yet or haven't you done enough?

Mr. WILLIS. I warn the witness that one more outburst and I will personally recommend to the committee that this sort of conduct should be considered as nothing less than contemptuous, and that is all I have to say. You are on your own from now on. I suggest that you consult with your counsel.

Mr. RICHTER. You submit these people to us and the reaction is something that is very difficult to control, you understand.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Richter, kindly tell the committee whether or not you know the lady who is standing back there, Miss Paumi.

Mr. RICHTER. Same answer.

Mr. ARENS. Thank you, Miss Paumi.

Mr. Richter, Miss Paumi has told the committee that she knew you as a member of the Communist conspiracy. Was she lying or was she telling the truth?

Mr. RICHTER. You have my counsel to thank. He said "same answer" for a while.

Same answer.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Richter, you have been identified as the present underground leader of the Communist conspiracy in Bridgeport. I now put it to you as a fact and ask you to affirm or deny the fact that you are the leader of the underground Communists in Bridgeport?

Mr. RICHTER. Did he say I was now?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. WILLIS. You are directed to answer that question.

Mr. RICHTER. I will answer, Mr. Chairman. I just want to fix the words clearly in my mind.

I refuse to answer that question, based on the fifth amendment, that the answer may tend to incriminate me, and to point out to this committee that the fifth amendment is for the protection of the innocent.

Mr. ARENS. For purposes of identification, are you the husband of Charlotte Richter?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. RICHTER. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, I respectfully suggest that would conclude the staff interrogation of this witness.

Mr. WILLIS. The committee will stand in recess until 1:30 p. m.

(Whereupon, at 12:20 p. m., the subcommittee recessed, to reconvene at 1:30 p. m. of the same day.)

AFTERNOON SESSION—TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1956

Mr. WILLIS. The subcommittee will come to order.

Call the next witness, counsel.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Harold W. Mosher, please come forward.

Remain standing, Mr. Mosher, while the chairman administers an oath to you, please, sir.

Mr. WILLIS. Will you raise your right hand, please?

Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. MOSHER. I do.

TESTIMONY OF HAROLD W. MOSHER

Mr. ARENS. Kindly identify yourself by name, residence, and occupation.

Mr. MOSHER. My name is Harold W. Mosher. I live at 27 Oregon Avenue, Hamden, Conn. My occupation is television serviceman.

Mr. ARENS. Are you the son of Worden C. Mosher, who was on the witness stand this morning?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, sir; I am.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Mosher, give us, if you please, just a brief sketch of your own personal life, where and when you were born, a word about your education and personal background.

Mr. MOSHER. I was born in New Haven, Conn., November 28, 1926. I have always lived in Hamden or New Haven or surrounding towns. I am a graduate of the Hamden High School and presently am attending evening courses in Quinnipiac College.

Mr. ARENS. Where is that located?

Mr. MOSHER. In Hamden.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Mosher, have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. MOSHER. I have been a member of the Communist Party as a Federal Bureau of Investigation informer; yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Have you ever been ideologically in sympathy with or identified with the Communist Party?

Mr. MOSHER. No, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Was your service in the Communist Party solely and exclusively at the behest of an agency of the Government of the United States for the purpose of procuring information which would help to protect the security of this country?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, sir; that is correct.

Mr. ARENS. Now tell us, if you please, sir, the period in which you served in the Communist Party.

Mr. MOSHER. I served from April 1947 through August of 1950.

Mr. ARENS. Where was that service?

Mr. MOSHER. In New Haven.

Mr. ARENS. Tell us in an outline form, please, sir, the various posts or assignments that you had in the party.

Mr. MOSHER. Well, in 1947 I was a recruiting director for the Youth Branch of the Communist Party. I was at one time a group captain of the Communist Party, Youth Branch. I was also a chairman of the Youth Branch at one time, during 1948, I believe that was. I was a representative of the Youth Branch to the New Haven County section committee during 1948 to sometime in 1949. I was at one time secretary of the Youth Branch.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Mosher, I want, if I can, to avoid going over the same general subject matter that we discussed with your father. I should like to ask you, however, on the basis of your background and experience in the Communist Party, how serious is the Communist operation in Connecticut, of which you have knowledge?

Mr. MOSHER. Well, I would say it's a little bit too serious and that possibly the committee has waited a little too long to step in and take any present action. I feel that it is a definite threat to the United States and this Government and the majority of the people, although I don't believe the average person realizes it.

Mr. ARENS. Would you kindly tell us, Mr. Mosher, about the clubs of the Communist conspiracy in Connecticut or New Haven of which you have knowledge, without duplicating the testimony of your father? Do you have information respecting some clubs that he did not tell us about?

Mr. MOSHER. Well, I have information respecting the same clubs. I may have additional names that were not mentioned by my father; whether the information would be the same, I don't know.

Mr. ARENS. Your activity was principally in the youth group, was it not?

Mr. MOSHER. Principally.

Mr. ARENS. Let us start with the Yale Club. That was the youth group, was it not?

Mr. MOSHER. I would consider the Yale Club in the youth group.

Mr. ARENS. Do you have information respecting the Yale Club of the Communist Party?

Mr. MOSHER. Some.

Mr. ARENS. Give us what information you have, please, sir.

Mr. MOSHER. The Yale Club consisted solely of Yale students and usually was kept fairly well under cover.

Mr. ARENS. How many members were there in the Yale Club?

Mr. MOSHER. The members weren't too generally known, I don't believe.

Mr. ARENS. How many members were there?

Mr. MOSHER. I would say 15 to 20.

Mr. ARENS. Was there a cutout system here in New Haven when you were a member of the Communist Party whereby one cell or unit would be isolated from the others?

Mr. MOSHER. In the latter years, 1949 or 1950.

Mr. ARENS. Did that cutout system apply to the Yale Club?

Mr. MOSHER. I don't know; I imagine so.

Mr. ARENS. Were you personally a member of the Yale Club?

Mr. MOSHER. No, sir.

Mr. ARENS. How did you acquire your information with respect to the Yale Club?

Mr. MOSHER. Through affiliation, various club meetings, and in personal contacts.

Mr. ARENS. You were at one time dues secretary of the Young Communist League?

Mr. MOSHER. Not the Young Communist League.

Mr. ARENS. Labor Youth League?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. The Labor Youth League was part of the Communist conspiracy?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. How many members were there in the Labor Youth League in this vicinity?

Mr. MOSHER. I would say approximately 25.

Mr. ARENS. Would you kindly tell us, to your certain knowledge, the names of the members of the Labor Youth League?

Mr. MOSHER. Sidney Resnick.

Mr. ARENS. How do you spell Resnick?

Mr. MOSHER. R-e-s-n-i-c-k, I believe.

Arlene Kayser was her maiden name, who became the wife of Sidney Resnick. Priscilla Small, Jimmy Gibbs—if I may have just a moment, please?

Mr. ARENS. Surely. Incidentally, you were in the Labor Youth League up until the time you disassociated yourself from the party in 1950; were you not?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, sir; that is correct.

There was a Celeste Hawley; there was a Burl Towles——

Mr. ARENS. What is that name?

Mr. MOSHER. T-o-w-l-e-s.

Mr. ARENS. First name?

Mr. MOSHER. Burl, B-u-r-l. He was a member of the Labor Youth League later.

Bernard Burg; there was an Irv and Virginia Simons. There were others, but offhand the names escape me.

Mr. ARENS. You were also director of the Communist Party youth group for a period of time?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. How extensive was the Communist Party youth group in New Haven?

Mr. MOSHER. By extensive, you mean the size of it?

Mr. ARENS. Yes; numerical strength.

Mr. MOSHER. Approximately the same as the Labor Youth League. Basically, it was the members of the youth branch who were more or less transferred into the Labor Youth League.

Mr. ARENS. Were you also at one time captain of the Communist Party youth group in New Haven?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, sir; I was.

Mr. ARENS. What was the strength of that group numerically?

Mr. MOSHER. The strength of the groups was broken down to 4 or 5 persons to each group.

Mr. ARENS. How many groups were there?

Mr. MOSHER. Either 4 or 5. My memory is not clear.

Mr. ARENS. It is a fact, Mr. Mosher, is it not, that you cannot appraise the strength of the Communist conspiracy on just the numerical strength of the party or the conspiracy; can you?

Mr. MOSHER. No, sir; you cannot.

Mr. ARENS. Each of the members of the conspiracy is at a vital spot and he is in a position to affect and influence a substantial number of other persons; is that not correct?

Mr. MOSHER. They attempt to get into vital spots so they can influence them.

Mr. ARENS. Did the conspiracy have a concentration in the New Haven area or in the Connecticut area?

Mr. MOSHER. Well, I believe they concentrated more or less through the brass valley, as my father previously testified, up through the industrial sections.

Mr. ARENS. Did you also serve as a representative of the Communist Party youth group on the Communist Party New Haven County section committee?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. And give us just a word about that, if you please, sir.

Mr. MOSHER. The committee usually consisted of the chairmen of the local branches of the New Haven County section, and usually they were more or less top-ranking meetings of the top leaders.

Mr. ARENS. Did you have information or do you have information respecting a Communist Party cell or fraction at the University of Connecticut?

Mr. MOSHER. I have attended meetings with students whom I knew were from the University of Connecticut, and I believe there was a cell there; yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Do you recall, to your certain knowledge, the names of any students of that university who were Communists?

Mr. MOSHER. I believe there was a Clyde Trudeau.

Mr. ARENS. How do you spell that? Would it be T-r-u-d-e-a-u?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Does any other name occur to you? Take your time, I do not mean to rush you.

Mr. MOSHER. I know of the individuals, sir; I just can't remember the names offhand.

Mr. ARENS. Did you know the gentleman who was on the witness stand this morning, Mr. Saul Kreas?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Did you know him as a Communist?

Mr. MOSHER. I have attended mass meetings with him, mass membership meetings; yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Were those mass meetings open only to comrades or were noncomrades also admitted?

Mr. MOSHER. Noncomrades were admissible, but basically it was normally party members.

Mr. ARENS. How recently did you attend these meetings with Mr. Saul Kreas?

Mr. MOSHER. I believe I can recall meetings as late as 1949.

Mr. ARENS. Do you recall where those meetings were held?

Mr. MOSHER. Most of the meetings at that time were held at 222 Lafayette Street, New Haven.

Mr. ARENS. What is that?

Mr. MOSHER. That was a headquarters of the Youth Branch of the Communist Party, Labor Youth League, and the Hill Club of the Communist Party.

Mr. ARENS. Did you know a person by the name of Bernie Burg as a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, sir; I did.

Mr. ARENS. Give us such identification as comes to your mind with reference to Bernie Burg.

Mr. MOSHER. Bernie Burg at one time was chairman of the youth branch, for a brief period.

Mr. ARENS. How do you spell Burg?

Mr. MOSHER. I believe he spelled it B-u-r-g. I may be wrong.

Mr. ARENS. Give us such description of him personally as you recall.

Mr. MOSHER. The physical description of him, sir?

Mr. ARENS. Yes.

Mr. MOSHER. Oh, I would say he is fairly heavy set; approximately five-six or seven; weighing about, probably about, 165; no mustache; no glasses.

Mr. ARENS. Did you know a person by the name of Paul Bloom?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Would you give us such description as comes to your mind with reference to Paul Bloom?

Mr. MOSHER. Paul Bloom was a smaller man, I would say approximately, probably, about five-two or five-three and probably weighed about 130 or 135 pounds.

Mr. ARENS. Did you know him as a member of the Communist conspiracy?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Do you here and now to your certain knowledge identify him to be a member of the Communist conspiracy?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Do you know Doris Bloom?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. What was the nature of your knowledge of her?

Mr. MOSHER. The nature of my knowledge is personal contact in attending meetings with her.

Mr. ARENS. Do you here and now identify her to your certain knowledge as a member of the conspiracy?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Did you know a man by the name of Sam Davis?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Give us a word with respect to the identification of Sam Davis.

Mr. MOSHER. I would say he is fairly heavy set, approximately, oh, about five-six I would say offhand, five-five or five-six.

Mr. ARENS. How old would you say?

Mr. MOSHER. I would say he is in the neighborhood of approximately 55 years of age.

Mr. ARENS. Did you know Sam Davis as a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, sir; I did.

Mr. ARENS. Do you here and now identify him to your certain knowledge as a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Did you know Emma Davis?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Would you identify her by physical appearance?

Mr. MOSHER. Emma Davis would be approximately five, I would say five-three or four and probably weighed 125 or 130 pounds—average size.

Mr. ARENS. And did you know her as a Communist?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, sir; I do.

Mr. ARENS. Did you ever know a person by the name of Samuel Gruber, G-r-u-b-e-r?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. And would you kindly give us a brief description of him?

Mr. MOSHER. If my memory is correct, I believe he would be about five-four and probably 145, somewhere in there.

Mr. ARENS. What was his occupation?

Mr. MOSHER. He was a lawyer, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Did you know him as a Communist?

Mr. MOSHER. I don't believe I can specifically say he was a Communist positively. I do know that he has attended Communist Party functions but I cannot specifically identify him.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Mosher, are there any other items of information which you would like to bring to the attention of the committee? I do not want you necessarily to repeat the same areas of evidence or information which your father disclosed this morning. We would be very happy to have you recite any other items.

Mr. MOSHER. I believe there are possibly a few more names that I might recall from different branches.

Mr. ARENS. We would be happy to have you do so. To your certain knowledge these persons were members of the Communist Party; is that correct?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, sir; that is correct.

Mr. ARENS. Kindly proceed, then, and if you would please give us a brief personal description of them as you identify them.

Mr. MOSHER. Well, there was Lil Demow.

Mr. ARENS. D-e-m-o-w?

Mr. MOSHER. D-e-m-o-w, who was the wife of Joseph Demow, recently before the Smith Act trial. I would say she was approximately five-five, probably weighing in the vicinity of 130.

There was a Sol Weissman, W-e-i-s-s-m-a-n, who was a member, I believe, of the Howe Street branch and is a member of the local cleaners union.

Mr. ARENS. He was a member of the Howe Street branch?

Mr. MOSHER. I believe he was a member of the Howe Street branch.

Mr. ARENS. He is currently in the local cleaners union; you say?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. In what capacity?

Mr. MOSHER. I do not know that, sir; I am not sure. There was a Harry Kaplan who was also a member, I believe, of the Howe Street branch. He is an organizer of the UE.

Mr. ARENS. Where is he located, please, sir?

Mr. MOSHER. He was from New Haven also, sir.

I don't know whether my dad mentioned a Helena Carter.

Mr. ARENS. I have no recollection of it.

Mr. MOSHER. She was a member of the Hill branch.

Mr. ARENS. And a word of description of her, if you please, sir?

Mr. MOSHER. I would say she was, oh, in her fifties, possibly her late fifties and probably about five-one or two, weighing probably about 115 pounds.

There was a Rose Brunswick and I believe she was a member of the Howe Street Club. Possibly it was another, but I think she was a member of the Howe Street branch. She would probably be in the neighborhood of about 5 feet, 3 inches, probably, and about 120 or 125 pounds.

There was a Lillian Kaplan, wife of Harry Kaplan that I previously mentioned. I believe she was a member of the Howe branch of the Communist Party.

Mr. ARENS. Do you know that she was a Communist?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. You are just a little uncertain as to the branch with which she may have been affiliated; is that correct?

Mr. MOSHER. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. All right.

Mr. MOSHER. There are others, sir, but I just can't remember them offhand. There are numerous others, but I just can't recall their names at the present.

Mr. ARENS. What is the objective of the Communist Party of the United States of America?

Mr. MOSHER. In my opinion, the objective of the Communist Party throughout the world, as well as in America, is to take over the complete world as much as they can by obtaining key positions in basic industries so that one person might control several hundred, or even several thousand in some spots.

Mr. ARENS. At the present time they control lock, stock and barrel 800 million people in the world?

Mr. MOSHER. Somewhere in that area.

Mr. ARENS. On the basis of your background and experience, your intimate knowledge of the operation of the conspiracy, how late is it on the Soviet timetable for world domination?

Mr. MOSHER. I beg your pardon, I didn't catch that.

Mr. ARENS. How late is it on the Soviet timetable for world domination?

Mr. MOSHER. Pretty late, unfortunately. I think that the ultimate goal is to overthrow the world, and in my opinion the only way this can be done is through force and violence, and I don't believe it can be obtained through any other means.

Mr. ARENS. Are there any other items of information you would like to bring to the attention of the committee?

Mr. MOSHER. Not that I can recall at this time.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, let me suggest that would conclude the staff interrogation of this witness.

Mr. KEARNEY. I just want to make this observation on behalf of this fine American's testimony here today. There is quite a contrast as between this witness who is now on the stand and the character who was on before lunch. We owe you a deep debt of gratitude. We know you sacrificed your personal friends to act as an undercover agent for our Government, and you deserve a great deal of credit, Mr. Mosher.

Mr. WILLIS. I certainly want to join in that observation by General Kearney. He sounded the exact thought that was in my mind when contrasting the testimony "as between you and the previous witness." Here you appear voluntarily without counsel, without hesitation and name names, places, and events.

We have been engaged in this work for a long time and it takes a lot of self-restraint and so on, but I hope that there might be a reward for the kind of job that you are doing. I might say that I do not suppose there is much guesswork about it, but there are a lot of others like yourself who are doing the same thing all over the United States, and the work is still going on.

The fact that you and your father retired in 1950 and could only bring your story up to that date from personal knowledge does not by any means indicate that the story from other sources is not being brought up to date.

I congratulate you and commend you for your courage and the assistance that you have given to this committee and to your Government.

Mr. ARENS. Thank you very much.

Mr. MOSHER. Thank you.

Mr. ARENS. If the chairman please, the next witness will be Mrs. Charlotte Richter.

Please remain standing while the chairman administers an oath to you.

Mr. WILLIS. Will you raise your right hand?

Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mrs. RICHTER. I do.

TESTIMONY OF CHARLOTTE RICHTER, ACCOMPANIED BY COUNSEL, VICTOR RABINOWITZ

Mr. ARENS. Please identify yourself by name, residence, and occupation.

Mrs. RICHTER. My name is Charlotte Richter. I live at 474 Edison Road, Trumbull, Conn., and I am a housewife.

Mr. ARENS. Are you the wife of Samuel Richter, who preceded you earlier today?

Mrs. RICHTER. Yes; I am.

Mr. ARENS. You are appearing today, Mrs. Richter, in response to a subpoena served upon you by the House Committee on Un-American Activities?

Mrs. RICHTER. Yes, sir; I am.

Mr. ARENS. Are you represented by counsel?

Mrs. RICHTER. Yes, I am.

Mr. ARENS. Will counsel kindly identify himself for this record?

Mr. RABINOWITZ. Victor Rabinowitz, New York.

Mr. KEARNEY. I would suggest that counsel give his address.

Mr. RABINOWITZ. 25 Broad Street.

Mr. ARENS. Mrs. Richter, has being a housewife been your full-time occupation in the course of the last 10 years?

Mrs. RICHTER. Well, I have held some part-time employment as a bookkeeper.

Mr. ARENS. Where was that and when, please?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. RICHTER. I worked for the Printing Industry of Connecticut in their Bridgeport office as a part-time bookkeeper.

Mr. ARENS. What is the Printing Industry of Connecticut?

Mrs. RICHTER. Well, it's an association.

Mr. ARENS. Is that an official body of printers, association of printers?

Mrs. RICHTER. Yes, I believe so.

Mr. ARENS. You were a bookkeeper for them?

Mrs. RICHTER. That is right.

Mr. ARENS. When was that?

Mrs. RICHTER. About 3 years ago I started, and the office closed up last year.

Mr. ARENS. Who was your immediate superior?

Mrs. RICHTER. Mr. William Keating.

Mr. ARENS. Have you had any employment since the conclusion of this employment with the Printing Industry?

Mrs. RICHTER. None to speak of. I worked a few hours here and there.

Mr. ARENS. What would be the nature of the part-time employment?

Mr. RICHTER. Bookkeeping.

Mr. ARENS. What employment have you had prior to this employment with the Printing Industry?

Mrs. RICHTER. I was a housewife. My children were born and I couldn't work and was just home.

Mr. ARENS. Now tell us the various organizations to which you have belonged in the last 10 years.

Mrs. RICHTER. I refuse to answer on the grounds of the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Are there any organizations to which you have belonged in the last 10 years concerning which you can tell us without supplying information which could be used against you in a criminal proceeding.

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. RICHTER. I don't understand your question. What kind of organizations are you referring to?

Mr. ARENS. Well, do you belong to any card clubs?

Mrs. RICHTER. I belong to the PTA.

Mr. ARENS. How long have you belonged to the PTA?

Mrs. RICHTER. Well, this year I just joined as of last week, but I had belonged to previous ones in the other schools where my children went to.

Mr. ARENS. Have you ever held an office or post in the PTA?

Mrs. RICHTER. No; I did not.

Mr. ARENS. During what period of time did you belong to various posts or chapters of the PTA?

Mrs. RICHTER. My children are 9 and 12; you can figure it out.

Mr. ARENS. Are there any other organizations to which you have belonged?

Mrs. RICHTER. I can't think of any; no.

Mr. ARENS. Have you belonged to any organizations in the last 10 years that you have not told us about?

Mrs. RICHTER. I refuse to answer on the grounds of the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Have you been active in political or public affairs in the community?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. RICHTER. I refuse to answer on the grounds of the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. I would like to lay before you, Mrs. Richter, a photostatic copy of a document on which appears the signature of Charlotte Richter, and ask you if that is your signature?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. RICHTER. I refuse to answer on the grounds of the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Have you ever lived at 563 Fairview Avenue?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mr. RABINOWITZ. May I see that last one?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. RICHTER. I refuse to answer on the grounds of the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Where do you live now?

Mrs. RICHTER. 474 Edison Road, Trumbull, Conn.

Mr. ARENS. How long have you lived there?

Mrs. RICHTER. 8½ years.

Mrs. ARENS. Where did you live prior to that time?

Mrs. RICHTER. I refuse to answer on the grounds of the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Did you, prior to the time you lived in your present establishment, live at 563 Fairview Avenue?

Mrs. RICHTER. I answered that question on the ground of the fifth amendment. I refuse to answer.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, I respectfully suggest that this document I have just displayed to the witness, nominating petition for November 1946 election of Connecticut Representative at Large under the title and designation of the Communist Party, be marked "Charlotte Richter Exhibit No. 1" and incorporated by reference in the record.

Mr. WILLIS. It will be so marked and so incorporated.

(The document referred to, marked "Charlotte Richter Exhibit No. 1," was incorporated in the record by reference.)

Mr. ARENS. Now I lay before you a photostatic copy of a document, nominating petition for November 1946 election of State Representative in Connecticut under the title and designation of Communist Party, in which appears the signature of Charlotte Richter, 563 Fairview Avenue, and ask you if you will kindly identify that for us?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. RICHTER. I refuse to answer on the grounds of the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. I respectfully suggest, Mr. Chairman, that this second document be marked "Charlotte Richter Exhibit No. 2" and be incorporated by reference in this record.

Mr. WILLIS. It will be so marked and so incorporated.

(The document referred to, marked "Charlotte Richter Exhibit No. 2," was incorporated in the record by reference.)

Mr. ARENS. Now, do you know a person by the name of Rowena Paumi?

Mrs. RICHTER. I refuse to answer on the grounds of the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Do you know a person by the name of Harold Kent?

Mrs. RICHTER. I refuse on the same grounds.

Mr. ARENS. Miss Paumi, would you kindly stand?

Would you, Mrs. Richter, kindly look over your right shoulder and tell us whether or not you know the lady who stands there?

Mrs. RICHTER. I refuse to answer on the grounds of the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Thank you.

Mr. Kent, would you kindly stand?

Would you, Mrs. Richter, kindly look over your right shoulder and or not you recognize or know Mr. Kent, who stands there?

Mrs. RICHTER. I refuse to answer on the grounds of the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Now, Mrs. Richter, Mr. Kent testified before this committee, under oath, that while he was an undercover agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, he knew you as a member of the Communist conspiracy. Was Mr. Kent lying or was he telling the truth?

Mrs. RICHTER. I refuse to answer on the grounds of the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Miss Paumi has told the committee that she knew you as a member of the Communist conspiracy; was she lying or was she telling the truth?

Mrs. RICHTER. I refuse to answer on the grounds of the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Are you presently a Communist?

Mrs. RICHTER. I refuse to answer on the grounds of the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Have you ever resigned from the Communist Party?

Mrs. RICHTER. I refuse to answer on the grounds of the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Are you presently a member of an organization dedicated to the overthrow of the Government by force and violence?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. RICHTER. I refuse to answer on the grounds of the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Do you belong to any organizations of the nonsensitive variety, such as the parent-teachers' association?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. RICHTER. Will you refer to specific organizations? I don't know.

Mr. ARENS. Tell us of any organizations to which you presently belong besides the PTA.

Mrs. RICHTER. I can't think of any at the moment.

Mr. ARENS. No other organizations?

I respectfully suggest, Mr. Chairman, that would conclude the staff interrogation of this witness.

Mr. WILLIS. The witness may be excused.

The committee will stand in recess informally for 5 minutes.

(A short recess was taken.)

Mr. WILLIS. The subcommittee will come to order.

Counsel will please call the next witness.

Mr. ARENS. Konstantine Jakowenko?

Please remain standing while the chairman administers an oath to you.

Mr. WILLIS. Will you raise your right hand?

Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. I do.

TESTIMONY OF KONSTANTINE JAKOWENKO, ACCOMPANIED BY COUNSEL, VICTOR RABINOWITZ

Mr. ARENS. Please identify yourself by name, residence, and occupation.

Mr. JAKOWENKO. My name is Konstantine Jakowenko. I live at 14 Talcott Street, New Britain, Conn.

Mr. ARENS. How do you spell your last name?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. J-a-k-o-w-e-n-k-o.

Mr. ARENS. Have you ever been known by any name other than Konstantine Jakowenko?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. Well, some nicknames.

Mr. ARENS. Other than nicknames?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. Not to the best of my knowledge.

Mr. ARENS. Are you appearing today, Mr. Jakowenko, in response to a subpoena served upon you by the House Committee on Un-American Activities?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. That is true.

Mr. ARENS. Are you represented by counsel?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. I am.

Mr. ARENS. Will counsel kindly identify himself?

Mr. RABINOWITZ. Victor Rabinowitz, 25 Broad Street, New York, N. Y.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Jakowenko, when did you first meet your counsel? (The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. JAKOWENKO. About a week ago.

Mr. ARENS. Did you initiate the meeting?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. I did.

Mr. ARENS. How did you first learn of Mr. Rabinowitz?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. I had learned that Mr. Rabinowitz had been a lawyer at these hearings, and I felt that I would like to retain him to represent me.

Mr. ARENS. Who gave you that information?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. JAKOWENKO. Well, I learned of it through reading various newspapers.

Mr. ARENS. Did you have any oral conversation with any person who recommended the retention of Mr. Rabinowitz by you?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. Well, I had—

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. JAKOWENKO. I had noted in the newspapers that a Mr. Steinberg had received a subpoena to appear before this committee.

Mr. ARENS. Did you know Mr. Steinberg?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. I knew Mr. Steinberg.

Mr. ARENS. What was the nature of your acquaintanceship with Mr. Steinberg?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. I had known Mr. Steinberg for a number of years.

Mr. ARENS. Tell us of the nature of the acquaintanceship.

Mr. JAKOWENKO. Just a friendly social relationship.

Mr. ARENS. Is that the only relationship you had with him?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Did you and Mr. Steinberg belong to any organizations together?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. JAKOWENKO. I would like to invoke the fifth amendment on that question.

Mr. ARENS. Do you honestly fear that if you told us the names of any organizations in which you and Mr. Steinberg may have been co-members, that you might be supplying information which could be used against you in a criminal proceeding?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. JAKOWENKO. I would take the same answer.

Mr. ARENS. Did you know Sam Richter?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. JAKOWENKO. The same answer, fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Did you have any conversation with Sam Richter respecting the retention of Mr. Rabinowitz as your attorney?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. Same answer.

Mr. ARENS. Do you know whether or not Mr. Steinberg knows Mr. Richter?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. The same answer.

Mr. ARENS. Tell us the names of all the people with whom you discussed the retention of Mr. Rabinowitz as your counsel prior to the time that he was engaged.

Mr. JAKOWENKO. I would invoke the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. The fact is, he was engaged for you under the direction of the Communist conspiracy, was he not?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. I would invoke the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. What is your present occupation?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. I am a truck driver, shipping clerk, receiving clerk, clerk of a general nature.

Mr. ARENS. What is the name of the firm?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. Smith & Klebes.

Mr. ARENS. What business?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. Mill supply distributors.

Mr. ARENS. How long have you been employed there?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. Approximately, well, 10 to 11 years.

Mr. ARENS. What was your employment immediately prior to your present employment?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. I was in the Armed Forces.

Mr. ARENS. Over what period of time were you in the Armed Forces?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. 1943, February, and it went through 1945. I think just approximately 3 years.

Mr. ARENS. Did you have a commission in the Army?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. Noncommissioned.

Mr. ARENS. In what branch of the service did you serve?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. I was in the Air Corps, attached to the Medical Department.

Mr. ARENS. Where did you serve?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. Where specifically do you mean?

Mr. ARENS. In what area, or theater?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. Well, I was drafted and went to Fort Devens, and from Fort Devens to Kerns, Utah for basic training, and from there I was sent to Savannah, Ga., to a station hospital as a medical technician.

Mr. ARENS. You did not serve outside of the continental United States; is that correct?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. Not at that time.

Mr. ARENS. Did you at some time?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. Well, up through, well, that period of time which totaled about a year and a half of my service, I was transferred to a school in Louisville, Ky., to train for the medical air evacuation. I was taken from that school, put into a squadron, and soon after sent overseas in regard to my specific technical training.

Mr. ARENS. Where were you sent overseas?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. Well, my port of embarkation was from Presque Isle in Maine. From there I was sent to Newfoundland, from there to the Azores for a period of time. Later on, I went to Bermuda, later on to France. That was the period of my service that I was in the Air Transport, the ATC, the Air Transport Command.

Mr. ARENS. During the course of your service in the United States Army, did you have access to confidential or restricted information? (The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. JAKOWENKO. I recall that my travel orders in the main were marked "restricted."

Mr. ARENS. During the course of your service in the Armed Forces of the United States, were you under the discipline of an organization controlled by a foreign power?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. JAKOWENKO. I was under the discipline of the United States Army, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Were you under the discipline of any other power?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. No, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Were you a member of the Communist Party in 1943?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. JAKOWENKO. I invoke the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Were you a member of the Communist Party in 1940?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. Same answer.

Mr. ARENS. Are you now a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. I invoke the fifth amendment.

Mr. KEARNEY. Then when you testified a few minutes ago that you were not under the control of any organization except the United States Army, you were speaking the truth?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. Sir?

Mr. ARENS. Were you a member of the Communist Party when you were in the Army of the United States?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. JAKOWENKO. I invoke the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Did you, during the course of your service in the United States Army, transmit to any person not authorized to receive the same, confidential or restricted information?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. JAKOWENKO. I never transmitted anything to anybody.

Mr. ARENS. Where and when did you meet Hy Steinberg, whom you have told us you know and have known as a friend for some time?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. JAKOWENKO. I would take the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. How long have you known Hy Steinberg?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. Same answer.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, I respectfully suggest the witness be ordered and directed to answer that question. He has opened the door himself by volunteering earlier in his testimony that he knows Hy Steinberg.

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. WILLIS. Yes. I do not see where the length of time would prejudice him in any way.

You are directed to answer the question.

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. JAKOWENKO. I would invoke the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. You have been active in public affairs around Connecticut, have you not?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. I will invoke the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. You are a great believer in the freedom of the press, as we all are; are you not, sir?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. JAKOWENKO. I would invoke the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. You mean to tell this committee that if you told us whether or not you are a believer in the freedom of the press, you might be supplying information that could be used against you in a criminal proceeding?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. Fifth amendment.

Mr. KEARNEY. Just a minute, counsel.

I do not believe, Mr. Chairman, that the answers this witness has given are a proper invocation of the fifth amendment. He just says "fifth amendment." I do not know what he means.

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. JAKOWENKO. The fifth amendment, sir, if you are not aware—

Mr. KEARNEY. I am perfectly aware of it.

Mr. JAKOWENKO. In part—

Mr. WILLIS. The question is, upon what provision or conception of the fifth amendment do you claim immunity from testifying in answering the question: Do you believe in the freedom of the press?

Mr. ARENS. Yes, freedom of the press.

Mr. WILLIS. Now, if you want to invoke the fifth amendment, if it would involve you in some way—do not say “the fifth amendment.” I really think that is too broad.

Mr. JAKOWENKO. Thank you for permitting me to invoke the fifth amendment, but the portion of the fifth amendment that I would refer to is that no person shall be permitted to testify—

Mr. WILLIS. Be compelled.

Mr. JAKOWENKO. Be compelled to testify against himself.

Mr. ARENS. In what type of proceedings?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. In a criminal proceeding.

Mr. KEARNEY. Is this a criminal proceeding?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. JAKOWENKO. Not being a lawyer—

Mr. KEARNEY. You have a lawyer there. Ask him if this is a criminal proceeding.

Mr. JAKOWENKO. These questions that are being put to me certainly are being put in such a manner that I certainly fear that I don't want to waive my privilege of the fifth amendment.

Mr. KEARNEY. You have all the time in the world to consult with your attorney; that is why you have him.

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. JAKOWENKO. I wonder if I may ask for a short recess?

Mr. RABINOWITZ. That is less than “all the time in the world,” sir; much less.

Mr. ARENS. Is your request based on the apprehension that you might break from the Communist Party and bare your soul?

Mr. RABINOWITZ. Based on the suggestion of Congressman Kearney that he could have all the time in the world, and he wants to take just 5 minutes.

Mr. KEARNEY. Mr. Attorney, you and I have met before and I know you just as well as you know this committee. Let us not have any stalling tactics here.

Mr. RABINOWITZ. Are you withdrawing your previous suggestion?

Mr. KEARNEY. If you mean to take an hour and a half, yes.

Mr. RABINOWITZ. Five minutes.

Mr. KEARNEY. Give him 5 minutes, then.

Mr. WILLIS. Very well, if you ask for a recess of 5 minutes to inform yourself on the question at issue, it is granted to you.

(A short recess was taken.)

Mr. WILLIS. The 5 minutes being up, the subcommittee will come to order.

Counsel will restate the question and we will proceed.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Jakowenko, what is your position on the freedom of the press?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. I will take the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Do you honestly apprehend that if you told this committee what your position is on the freedom of the press, you would be supplying information which might be used against you in a criminal proceeding?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. You were chairman of the Freedom of the Press Committee campaign here in Connecticut for a period of time, were you not?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. I invoke the fifth amendment, sir.

Mr. ARENS. You are surely not ashamed of what you might have done for freedom of the press, such a laudable objective?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. The same answer.

Mr. ARENS. I put it to you as a fact, and ask you to affirm or deny it is a fact, that from 1954 to 1956 you were chairman of the Freedom of the Press Committee campaign in Connecticut under the auspices and control of the Communist conspiracy.

Mr. JAKOWENKO. I will take the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Do you know a lady by the name of Rowena Paumi?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. I will invoke the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Miss Paumi, would you kindly stand?

Mr. JAKOWENKO, would you look over your right shoulder at the lady standing there? Do you know her?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. I will take the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Miss Paumi has told this committee that she knew you as a member of the Communist conspiracy. Was she lying or was she telling the truth?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. Same answer.

Mr. ARENS. Tell this committee all of the organizations to which you presently belong?

Mr. JAKOWENKO. I will invoke the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Do you belong to any nonsensitive organizations?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. JAKOWENKO. Would you please explain——

Mr. ARENS. Organizations concerning which you could give us information without supplying information which might be used against you in a criminal proceeding.

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. JAKOWENKO. I will invoke the fifth amendment.

Mr. KEARNEY. Are you a member of any veterans' organizations?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. JAKOWENKO. No.

Mr. ARENS. I respectfully suggest, Mr. Chairman, that would conclude the staff interrogation of this witness.

Mr. WILLIS. I have no questions.

Mr. RABINOWITZ. There was a question of law remaining unanswered.

I refer the committee to cases that I am sure counsel is familiar with. The witness was asked the question, and that was the reason we took the recess, and the cases are, among others, Emspak against the United States, Quinn against the United States, and Bart against the United States, all of which I am sure the committee is familiar with, because it was licked in all three of the cases. All of them hold the witness has a right to use the fifth amendment in congressional committee hearings, as I am sure all members of the committee know.

There are many cases to the same effect.

Mr. ARENS. There has been no suggestion, as you know, Mr. Rabinowitz, that the witness does not have the right to invoke the fifth amendment before a committee.

Mr. RABINOWITZ. I understood Mr. Kearney's questioning was whether this was a criminal proceeding to be exactly that.

Mr. KEARNEY. I asked the gentleman if this was a criminal proceeding, and he had a right to consult with his attorney, and his attorney

knows this is not a criminal proceeding. Now go ahead and cite some more cases.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, the next witness, if you please, is Mr. Hyman Steinberg.

Please remain standing, Mr. Steinberg, while the chairman administers an oath to you, sir.

Mr. WILLIS. Will you please raise your right hand?

Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. STEINBERG. I do.

TESTIMONY OF HYMAN STEINBERG, ACCOMPANIED BY COUNSEL, VICTOR RABINOWITZ

Mr. ARENS. Please identify yourself by name, residence, and occupation.

Mr. STEINBERG. Hyman Steinberg, 42 Cottage Grove Circle. I am a concessionaire.

Mr. ARENS. In what town?

Mr. STEINBERG. In Bloomfield.

Mr. ARENS. Are you appearing today, Mr. Steinberg, in response to a subpoena which was served upon you by the House Committee on Un-American Activities?

Mr. STEINBERG. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. Are you represented by counsel?

Mr. STEINBERG. I am.

Mr. ARENS. Counsel, will you kindly identify yourself?

Mr. RABINOWITZ. Victor Rabinowitz, 25 Broad Street, New York, N. Y.

Mr. ARENS. Do you know the gentleman who just left the witness stand, Mr. Jakowenko?

Mr. STEINBERG. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. How long have you known him?

Mr. STEINBERG. I can't specifically say; over a period of years.

Mr. ARENS. As many as 5 years?

Mr. STEINBERG. Possibly.

Mr. ARENS. Where did you meet him?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. STEINBERG. I will invoke the fifth amendment on the ground that I can't be compelled to testify against myself.

Mr. ARENS. When did you last see him prior to his appearance before the committee?

Mr. STEINBERG. We rode down together.

Mr. ARENS. You rode down to New Haven?

Mr. STEINBERG. Sure did.

Mr. ARENS. When did you see him prior to that time?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. STEINBERG. Friday night.

Mr. ARENS. Where was that?

Mr. STEINBERG. We went down to consult with our counsel.

Mr. ARENS. That was Mr. Rabinowitz?

Mr. STEINBERG. That is right.

Mr. ARENS. Is that the first time you ever met Mr. Rabinowitz?

Mr. STEINBERG. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. How did you happen to go to see Mr. Rabinowitz?

Mr. STEINBERG. Well, remembering his name in a period of about 5 years in the New York Times, reading about these hearings, I remembered his name and sought him for counsel.

Mr. ARENS. Is that the sole and exclusive information you had with respect to Mr. Rabinowitz?

Mr. STEINBERG. Pardon?

Mr. ARENS. Is that the sole source of your information respecting Mr. Rabinowitz?

Mr. STEINBERG. That is the sole source.

Mr. ARENS. How did you make contact with him?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. STEINBERG. I believe after picking Mr. Rabinowitz as counsel, I asked Mr. Jakowenko to call Mr. Rabinowitz and make an appointment for us to see him.

Mr. ARENS. Did you, in the course of your prospective arrangement to see Mr. Rabinowitz, confer with anyone other than Mr. Jakowenko?

Mr. STEINBERG. No.

Mr. ARENS. Did you confer with Samuel Richter?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. STEINBERG. No.

Mr. ARENS. You know Sam Richter, of course, do you not?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. STEINBERG. I will invoke the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Tell us what clubs or groups to which you and Mr. Jakowenko jointly belong?

Mr. STEINBERG. Again I will invoke the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Do you belong to golf clubs together? Do you play golf?

Mr. STEINBERG. I don't have that leisure. I will invoke the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Are there any organizations to which you and Mr. Jakowenko belong?

Mr. STEINBERG. Again the answer remains the same.

Mr. ARENS. To how many organizations do you belong at the present time?

Mr. STEINBERG. Same answer.

Mr. ARENS. Do you belong to any nonsensitive organizations?

Mr. STEINBERG. I will take the same answer.

Mr. ARENS. Do you operate this food concession yourself? Are you the owner of it?

Mr. STEINBERG. I am.

Mr. ARENS. How long have you operated it?

Mr. STEINBERG. Well, within the same building, I would say about a year and a half, 2 years.

Mr. ARENS. What is the name of it?

Mr. STEINBERG. Hy Jack Snack Bar.

Mr. ARENS. Where is it located? In Bloomfield, Conn.?

Mr. STEINBERG. In a department store.

Mr. ARENS. In what department store?

Mr. STEINBERG. Curry's.

Mr. ARENS. Are you the sole owner of it?

Mr. STEINBERG. Well, I have a very good partner; my wife.

Mr. ARENS. Where did you operate this food concession prior to the time that you located in the department store?

Mr. STEINBERG. Farmers Market.

Mr. ARENS. And where is that?

Mr. STEINBERG. Bloomfield.

Mr. ARENS. How long did you operate it there?

Mr. STEINBERG. As long as the place was opened.

Mr. ARENS. How long was that?

Mr. STEINBERG. Oh, I would say 7 or 8 months.

Mr. ARENS. Where were you born?

Mr. STEINBERG. Hartford, Conn.

Mr. ARENS. And when?

Mr. STEINBERG. June 1, 1919.

Mr. ARENS. And a word, please, sir, about your education.

Mr. STEINBERG. High school.

Mr. ARENS. Is that the only formal education you had?

Mr. STEINBERG. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. Have you ever received any specialized training since you concluded your high-school education?

Mr. STEINBERG. Hairdresser.

Mr. ARENS. Hairdressing?

Mr. STEINBERG. Hair stylist, I am sorry.

Mr. ARENS. Did that develop immediately after you concluded your work at the high school?

Mr. STEINBERG. Pardon?

Mr. ARENS. When did you graduate from high school?

Mr. STEINBERG. I didn't graduate from high school.

Mr. ARENS. When did you conclude your work in high school?

Mr. STEINBERG. 1937.

Mr. ARENS. When did you commence your training in the hair-styling school?

Mr. STEINBERG. Right after that.

Mr. ARENS. How long did you attend the hair-styling school?

Mr. STEINBERG. I think 2,100 hours.

Mr. ARENS. Did you graduate from the hair-styling school?

Mr. STEINBERG. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. What school was it?

Mr. STEINBERG. Connecticut Institute of Hairdressing.

Mr. ARENS. When did you graduate from it?

Mr. STEINBERG. I couldn't rightfully say—between 1938 and 1939.

Mr. ARENS. What was your occupation immediately after you graduated from the hairdressing school?

Mr. STEINBERG. Hair stylist.

Mr. ARENS. Where?

Mr. STEINBERG. Both in Hartford and New York.

Mr. ARENS. Did you have 2 establishments or did 1 occupation succeed the other?

Mr. STEINBERG. It was a back-and-forth deal.

Mr. ARENS. For whom were you employed?

Mr. STEINBERG. By myself, and some businesses, I think, that are out of business today.

Mr. ARENS. Did you have a shop in Connecticut?

Mr. STEINBERG. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. Where was that shop located?

Mr. STEINBERG. On Garden Street, Hartford.

Mr. ARENS. How long did you operate that shop?

Mr. STEINBERG. About a year.

Mr. ARENS. Then what happened?

Mr. STEINBERG. What happened?

Mr. ARENS. Yes, sir.

Mr. STEINBERG. Nothing.

Mr. ARENS. What caused your disassociation from the operation of that shop?

Mr. STEINBERG. I was a temperamental hair stylist.

Mr. ARENS. Did you quit the hair-styling business?

Mr. STEINBERG. Entirely.

Mr. ARENS. Then what did you do for a living?

Mr. STEINBERG. Mechanic.

Mr. ARENS. Where?

Mr. STEINBERG. I think O'Meara Motors, if I am not mistaken.

Mr. ARENS. Where is that located?

Mr. STEINBERG. East Hartford.

Mr. ARENS. Who was your immediate superior?

Mr. STEINBERG. I don't remember.

Mr. ARENS. How long were you employed at O'Meara Motors?

Mr. STEINBERG. A short time.

Mr. ARENS. Less than a year?

Mr. STEINBERG. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. What was your next employment?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. STEINBERG. I don't remember.

Mr. ARENS. What was your next principal employment?

Mr. STEINBERG. I went to work for a coin-vending place.

Mr. ARENS. Where was that?

Mr. STEINBERG. In Hartford.

Mr. ARENS. How long were you engaged there?

Mr. STEINBERG. About 11 or 12 years.

Mr. ARENS. Was that the employment which immediately preceded the opening by you of your food concession establishment?

Mr. STEINBERG. No. I went into business for myself.

Mr. ARENS. Then what happened after you concluded your employment with the vending-machine company?

Mr. STEINBERG. I went into vending myself.

Mr. ARENS. Where were your vending machines?

Mr. STEINBERG. Hartford.

Mr. ARENS. How long were you engaged—

Mr. STEINBERG. I am not through.

Mr. ARENS. I beg your pardon.

Mr. STEINBERG. Hartford, Windsor, Wethersfield, West Hartford, and Rocky Hill.

Mr. ARENS. What was your next employment?

Mr. STEINBERG. Concessionaire.

Mr. ARENS. That is when you opened this establishment which, with your successor organization, you are presently running; is that correct?

Mr. STEINBERG. That is right.

Mr. ARENS. Do you know a person by the name of Rowena Paumi?

Mr. STEINBERG. I invoke the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Would you kindly look over your right shoulder—and would you please stand, Miss Paumi—and tell us whether you recognize the lady standing there?

Mr. STEINBERG. Fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Do you honestly apprehend that if you told this committee, while you are under oath, whether or not you recognize Miss Paumi, you might be supplying information which could be used against you in a criminal proceeding?

Mr. STEINBERG. The answer remains the same.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, I respectfully suggest the witness be ordered and directed to answer that last principal question.

Mr. WILLIS. Yes, you are directed to answer that question.

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. RABINOWITZ. Would you mind reading the question, please?

(The pending question was read by the reporter.)

Mr. STEINBERG. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. Miss Paumi told this committee that she knew you as a Communist. Was she lying or was she telling the truth?

Mr. STEINBERG. Fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. What do you mean, "fifth amendment"?

Mr. STEINBERG. No one shall compel myself to testify against myself. I invoke the privileges of that amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Do you honestly fear that if you gave a truthful answer to that question, you would be supplying information which could be used against you in a criminal proceeding?

Mr. STEINBERG. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. Are you now a Communist?

Mr. STEINBERG. Fifth amendment.

Mr. KEARNEY. If you were not a member of the Communist Party, would you so state to the committee?

Mr. STEINBERG. Fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Were you a Communist in 1937?

Mr. STEINBERG. Fifth amendment.

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. ARENS. Did you ever serve in the Armed Forces in this Government?

Mr. STEINBERG. No, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Were you deferred?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. STEINBERG. Yes, sir; deferred.

Mr. ARENS. What was your classification?

Mr. STEINBERG. I think that is my personal business.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, I respectfully suggest the witness be ordered and directed to answer that question.

Mr. WILLIS. Yes, you are directed to answer.

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. STEINBERG. I was IV-F, sir.

Mr. ARENS. What is your home address?

Mr. STEINBERG. 42 Cottage Grove Circle, Bloomfield.

Mr. ARENS. I respectfully suggest, Mr. Chairman, that will conclude the staff interrogation of this witness.

Mr. WILLIS. No questions.

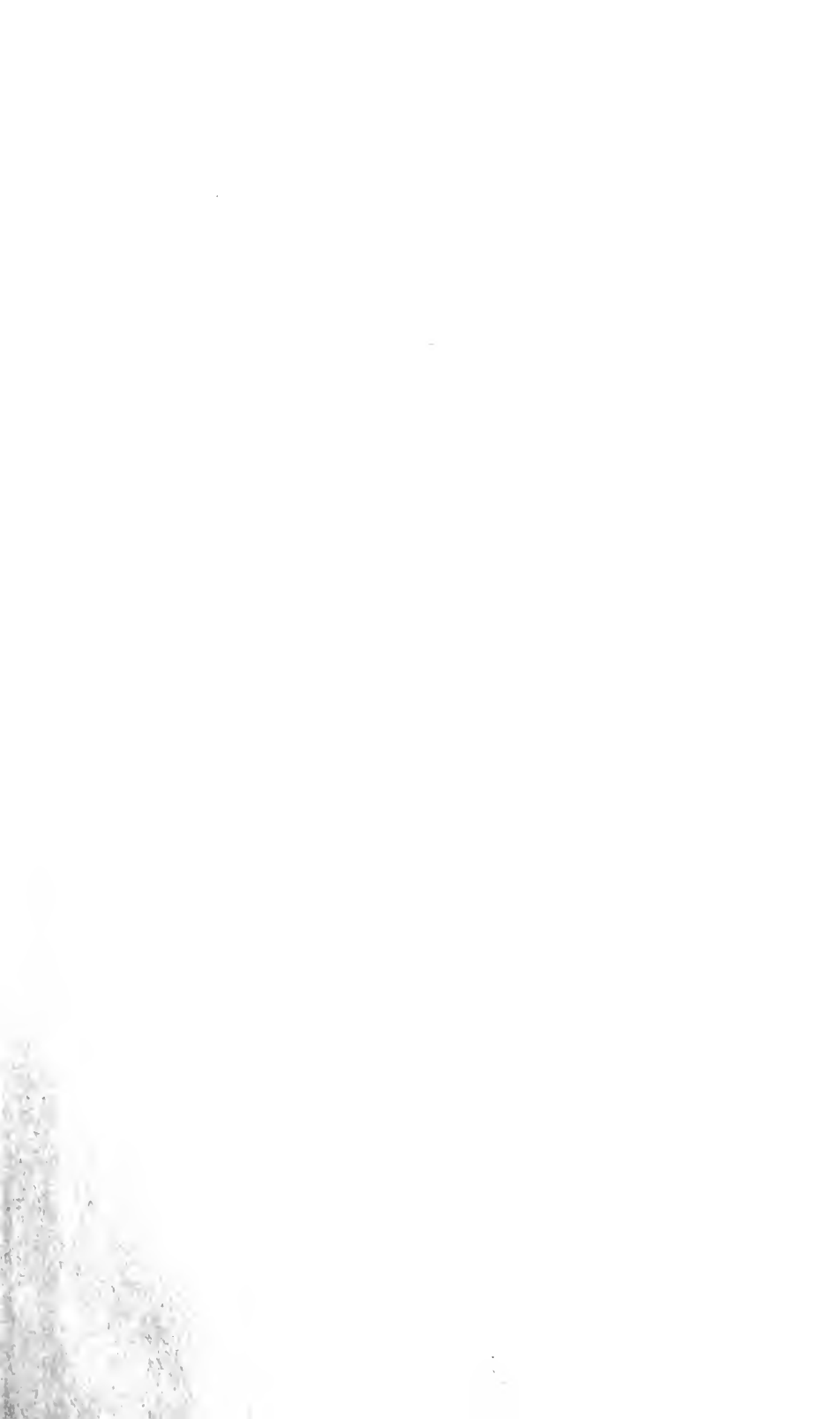
At the suggestion of our counsel, the committee will go into executive session, and this will conclude the hearing for this afternoon. The committee will resume sessions tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock.

(Whereupon, at 2:52 p. m., Tuesday, September 25, the subcommittee recessed, to reconvene at 10 a. m., Wednesday, September 26, 1956.)

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a	3249	1-2 sent pt 6
b c d	3240	6200's story pfs 1-8
e	3241	p. 2 Sunday pfs 2-3
f	3242	fund for republic
g	3243	Tillich
hi	3244	Nachrichten pt 1-2
j	3245	LA pt 11
k	3246	submission diplo
l	3247	Youngstown near

